



## Time to take a hot soak

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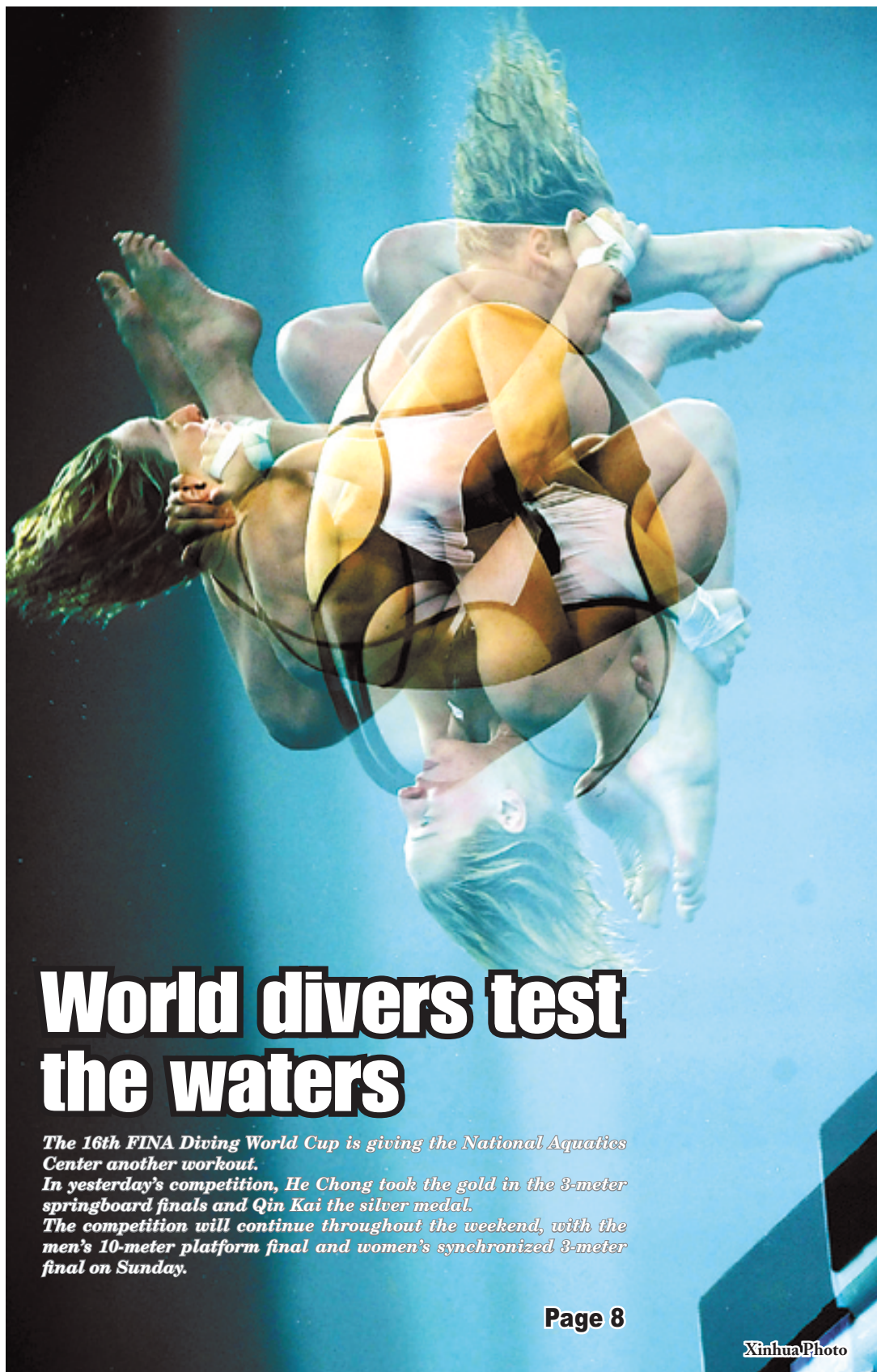


## Treasures beyond Sungnyemun

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# Sex shops trump taboos

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## World divers test the waters

*The 16th FINA Diving World Cup is giving the National Aquatics Center another workout. In yesterday's competition, He Chong took the gold in the 3-meter springboard finals and Qin Kai the silver medal. The competition will continue throughout the weekend, with the men's 10-meter platform final and women's synchronized 3-meter final on Sunday.*

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XinhuaPhoto

## Seven-year battle brings back daughter

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# No enterprise to abandon Olympic sponsorship

By He Jianwei

While Hollywood director Steven Spielberg made quite a scene with his decision to pull out as advisor for the opening and closing ceremonies, Olympic sponsors are not following his lead.

No sponsors withdrew from Beijing's 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, an official from the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) said Wednesday.

All sponsor enterprises agreed with the spirit of the Games, and agreed that Beijing's Games would contribute to the development of the world and world peace, so they supported and

sponsored the Games, Yuan Bin, director of BOCOG's Marketing Department, said.

"Although a few organizations and individuals are pressuring sponsors for political reasons, not a single sponsor said it plans to drop the Games or quit its marketing program," Yuan said.

Yuan said the opening and closing ceremonies will continue smoothly, even without Spielberg's influence.

A manager for Adidas, key Olympic sponsor, reaffirmed the German sportswear maker's support for the Games. "We are a sports brand, and it is a tradition for us to be part of the Games,"

Li Zhinu, the Adidas Olympic program's senior manager, said.

A total of 63 global and local companies – ranging from worldwide partners to service suppliers – have joined the Olympic marketing program.

Major sponsors include Adidas, Johnson & Johnson, Volkswagen, General Electric, McDonald's and Coca-Cola, as well as computer maker Lenovo and other Chinese companies.

The Beijing Paralympic Games are sponsored by as many as 30 enterprises, including 15 Beijing Paralympic Partners, of whom 11 are Beijing 2008 Partners and four worldwide Partners, Yuan said.

Yuan confirmed BOCOG's vow to maintain licensed Olympic products at the present price level, despite January's record-setting consumer price index (CPI) jump.

"Our principle is to develop products that are affordable for the general public, so we paid a lot of attention to the prices," Yuan said.

"One of our measures was to cut franchise rates from 10 to 8 percent last year. Because franchisers made their contributions through franchise fees, lower fees will help to shave cost," she said.

"We also consider other measures such as more environment-friendly and cheaper packaging," she said.

## Golden hours grow, foreign cartoons shrink

By Han Manman

No amount of trickery by Mickey Mouse or fighting by the Pokémon will bend the official ban on foreign cartoons during China's prime time hours. The ban will be further extended by another hour starting in May.

The ban, issued by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) aims to provide "a favorable environment" for innovation in the domestic cartoon industry.

The new rules would define China's prime time, or "golden hours," as stretching from 5 to 9 pm. During these hours, all domestic cartoon or children's channels are banned from airing foreign-made cartoon programs.

Cartoons co-produced by domestic and foreign companies will need state approval to air during the golden hours.

The ratio of Chinese-made cartoons to foreign cartoons is required to be 7:3, and all provincial-level broadcast watchdogs are required to organize supervision teams to ensure the new regulations are followed, according to SARFT's circular.

It required TV stations to allocate more money to their cartoon channels, especially satellite cartoon channels, to expand the broadcast of domestic animations.

Last year, 101,900 minutes of cartoon programming were produced in China, up 23 percent from 2006, according to the circular.

The broadcast administration issued a notice on September 1, 2006 to ban foreign cartoons from the airwaves during golden hours when it found the stations were dominated by Japanese programs like *Astro Boy* and *The Prince of Tennis*, according to a previous Xinhua report.

The latest regulations follow an order last week by the General Administration of Press and Publications to ban broadcasts of horror films.

## Rats on the run



CFP Photo

By Zhang Dongya

The year of the rat cannot save rodents from a city-wide extermination campaign set to begin Tuesday. The Municipal Management Committee and Patriotic Health Campaign Committee

of Shijingshan have released six tons of rat poison and more than 10,000 traps to residents and workers this week.

The rat hunt is aimed to wipe out rodents within a two-kilometer radius of each Olympic sta-

dium. Olympic hospitals, hotels and restaurants are included in the list of key spots.

The Bureau of Public Health has asked rat hunt participants to post notices outside sites where rat poison is used.

## New regional rules to simplify school admissions

By Zhang Dongya

School-age children can start school without fear of examinations, and each district and county government must guarantee that children can enter a school near where they live according to a new draft of regional rules for Beijing.

According to the Draft Procedures of Beijing Municipality on the Implementation of Compulsory Education, schools may neither select students by tests or interviews, nor take miscellaneous contest grades, diplomas or certificates as a preference when recruiting. A Municipal People's Congress committee spokesman said the rule aims to ensure a balanced approach to compulsory education, and should put an end to the chaotic school selection process.

In the mid-1990s, parents began offering outlandish sums to bump their children's admissions from their assigned school to a "better" one. The government attempted to stomp out the practice with its "Three Restrictions" policy – restriction of scores, number of students and money – was released in 2000.

A recent survey conducted by Education Management Department of Beijing Normal University showed the average cost of school selection in Beijing exceeded 20,000 yuan, and 17 percent of presidents in "key schools" spent the money on the school's teachers.

It also showed money was mostly thrown about during the nine-year compulsory education, especially during middle school.

"The cost of pushing one's child into a higher school has been a serious educational expenditure and financial burden for many families, with high school fees equivalent to half the annual income of many families," one of the surveyors said.

The municipal committee's Web site began accepting public comments about the new draft on Tuesday. It will continue to accept comments until the end of the month.

"Regulations on where foreigners choose to send their children to schools have not been clarified," a staff member at the Beijing Municipal Education Commission said. "This is a question to be handled by the education commission of their district of residence."

## Jack Frost's winter ampage leaves wake of losses

By Huang Daohen

Extreme winter weather this year caused a 57 billion yuan loss to China's forestry sector, a forestry administration spokesman said Tuesday.

Snow storms, the worst in 50 years, damaged nearly 19 million hectares of forest, or 10 percent of the country's total forests, Vice Minister of the State Forestry Administration Zhu Lieke told a press conference at the State Council Information Office.

At least 19 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities including Hunan, Guizhou, Jiangxi, Hubei, Anhui and Zhejiang were affected by the disaster, Zhu said.

"It will seriously affect the environment and set back our ability to achieve our goal of 20 percent of the nation covered by forest by 2010," he said.

Zhu said the severe weather also caused damage to 1,781 state-owned forest farms and 1,200 nurseries, and killed or injured up to 30,000 protected wild animals.

"There can be no doubt this natural disaster has severely damaged south China's forestry resources, and in areas hit hard by the disaster, output could be crippled for three to five years," he said.

Nationwide, China's timber production capacity has not been affected, he said.

Yet Xiao Xingwei, head of the forestry administration's resources department, said some companies that rely on bamboo and timber for raw materials will likely have to close. The government will consider importing fibrous materials from abroad to meet market demand and ensure stable supply this year, he said.

Subsidies for replanting and loans will be offered to affected farmers and certain fees will be waived to aid in recovery, he said.

## Brief news

### 18th bird flu case reported

The Chinese Health Ministry confirmed Tuesday that a 22-year-old man in central China was the nation's 18th human victim of bird flu.

### Survey finds bad water

Drinking water in many of China's rural areas is unhealthy, with more than 44 percent failing to meet government standards, a Ministry of Health spokesman said Monday.

### No property tax levy yet

The State Administration of Taxation has dismissed market rumors that the property tax levy is likely to start within the year, and said it will not come for at least two years. The property tax levy is a move the public believes may be an effective way to curb rising property prices.

### Limited to 'IV standard'

Cars which fail to meet the new China IV standard (Euro IV) cannot be sold starting next month. The ban comes as part of the municipal government's efforts to ensure a "green" Olympics later this year.

(By Han Manman)



# Seven-year battle brings little girl home

By Han Manman

A seven-year international custody battle for one girl has wound down now that the girl has returned to her natural parents in Hunan Province.

Last Saturday, nine year old Anna Mae He, her brother and sister, and her birth parents arrived at Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province, after a 22-hour flight from the US to China.

After seven years on the other side of the world, Anna Mae He felt strange about her new home.

"She's happy to be with her family, and is comfortable with her Mom and Dad. At the same time, she's a little bit nervous about her Chinese," Jack He, her father, said.

"My parents are in their 80s. They have been looking forward to seeing their grandchildren and have waited for this day for a long time," he said.

Jack He said the main problem is that Anna doesn't speak Chinese, and until recently has never been exposed to Chinese culture. He plans to send her to a bilingual school for at least one year.

The custody battle badly damaged both the Hes and the Bakers, Anna Mae He's adoptive parents. During her time with the Bakers, the girl grew resistant to Chinese culture.

The feelings of hurt and anger go beyond the litigants. Hundreds and thousands of onlookers, including Chinese and US communities



Anna Mae He (first from right) and her family arrived at Changsha airport, Hunan Province.

Photo provided by Chongqing Shangbao

who followed media reports, joined the fight.

"Anna Mae He was very hostile to us at first. She didn't say anything and wouldn't even look at us," Jack He said. "She refused to eat the food her mother cooked and said it was poison."

It took months of love to crack through Anna Mae He's shell. "Last month, she called us daddy and

mommy for the first time when she asked us to help with her homework," Jack He said.

When they heard the words, the couple cried.

In 1999, the Hes went to Memphis so Jack He could work on his PhD at the University of Memphis. Due to financial and legal distress, the couple was granted temporary custody of their year-old daughter,

Anna Mae He, to the Bakers, a US couple who subsequently insisted on raising the child.

In May 2000, a Juvenile Court denied the Hes' petition to regain custody. In May 2004, Tennessee Circuit Judge Robert Childers again ruled in the Bakers' favor.

Last month, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled Anna Mae He be returned to her parents.

## Museum seeks to preserve the city's present

By Li Fenghua

Beijing Capital Museum is collecting articles which "record the changes of Beijing" for Memories of Beijing-Common People's Lives, an exhibition set to open next year.

According to the official notice on the museum's Web site, the collection will focus on families from the eight districts of Beijing. The museum invited foreigners who have lived in the city for 20 or more years to participate.

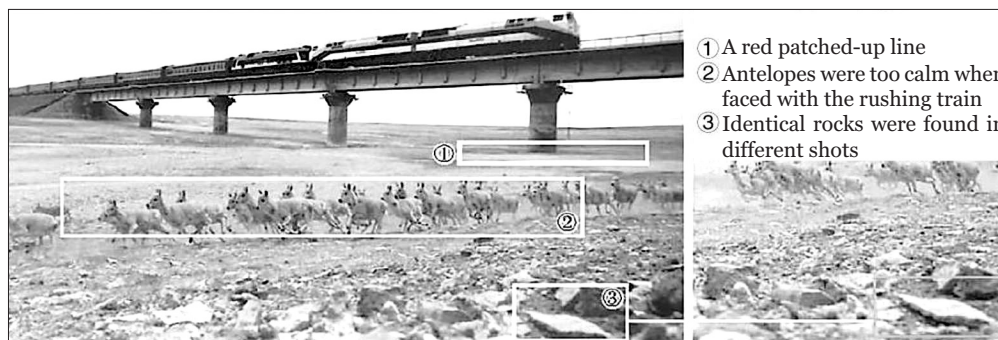
The exhibition starts from the founding of the People's Republic of China, and is divided into blocks for each decade since.

Submitted articles must be complete life scenes which can tell stories of past years, such as furniture sets, kitchen utensils, books, clothes, drawings, drafts, diaries, paper, essays or daily necessities.

Video or audio recordings, including photographs, videotapes and sound-recordings, must relate to the memory of Beijing city life.

"At the time of exhibition, seminars and lectures - such as City Memory, Creative Beijing, and Study on the History of Beijing - will be held," Wang Xuemei, a Capital Museum worker, said.

## CCTV-prized photo confirmed as 'shopped'



Netizens pointed out the photoshop clues.

By Jackie Zhang

CCTV's best news photo of 2006 is not that at all, according to an netizen-led investigation. The photographer, Liu Weiqiang, was dismissed by Daqing Evening News Tuesday.

The winning photo showed a scene from the Qinghai-Tibet railway where a group of wild antelopes crossed the tracks as the train passed. Last Tuesday, a post on a photography Web site pointed out that the picture was edited by Adobe Photoshop. Dajiala, the poster, said he found an obvious line which indicated that the photo was patched up.

Dajiala's post generated a lot of discussion. Many follow ups further researched the image and exposed more inaccuracies, such

as the stones in the picture being identical to another photo of the same place, but at a different time. Another poster commented that if the antelopes were on the tracks as the train was coming, they would not be walking so calmly.

Liu Weiqiang, the photographer, is vice director of Daqing Evening News's photography department. Last Friday, Liu confirmed to Chengdu Evening News that the photo was edited with Photoshop. "The bridge is real and the antelopes are real, but the two did not appear together at the same time," Liu said.

He said that the photo was used as an advertisement for the Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve, from whence it was published in the China Environmental News

- ① A red patched-up line
- ② Antelopes were too calm when faced with the rushing train
- ③ Identical rocks were found in different shots

Photo provided by Dajiala

and picked up by CCTV. The photo eventually went on to take the bronze medal for best news photo of 2006.

"I never published this photo in any way before, and have never taken part in any competition because it was a processed picture," the photographer said.

Last weekend, a CCTV staff member said that the photo was considered for an award because it was published by the media, which assumed it was an unedited shot.

Daqing Evening News published an apology notice on its Web site on Monday. The notice said that Liu Weiqiang would be dismissed by the newspaper, and Editor in Chief Wang Zhongyi resigned last Sunday.

## The twists of establishing a labor union

By Jackie Zhang

Ole Wolff (Yantai) Electronics is a Denmark-based company with branches all over the world, but it is the Fushan district, Yantai, Shandong Province, branch now under fire for mistreating workers and violating Chinese labor laws.

Although Liu Meizhen, the Ole worker who led efforts to establish a union, and her coworkers recently won a lawsuit against their employer, the workers remain unable to find new jobs because their personal records remain in Ole's possession.

Early in 2006, Liu and 56 other women workers entered the company starting their two-month probation period. All 57 workers were dismissed by the company without reason.

Liu and other workers went to the local labor department and reported the company's behavior. With the help of local departments, Liu and another five workers again signed contracts with the company.

In July, 2006, the workers applied to establish a labor union in the company. According to the Trade Union Law of China, workers in any companies in China have the right to establish and join a labor union. More than 50 foreign-owned companies already have labor unions.

Ole Wolff refused to respond to worker's requests for a union.

In October, the company dismissed six workers, including Liu again, for demanding the company grant them a break during legal holidays. Again with the help of local labor protection department, Liu returned to her work.

A total of 108 workers at Ole Wolff submitted a labor union establishment application to the Fushan Federation of Trade Unions. The company refused to comply, prompting a 50-worker strike.

The company agreed to reconsider the union's establishment, and the next day, discharged Liu and another five workers.

A week later, a labor union was established in Ole Wolff following an All China Federation of Trade Union inquiry. It selected a worker named Wang Zhaori as the union's chairman.

Last June, Wang gave up her task and resigned. "Ever since I became chairman of the union, I never felt happy and cried a lot," she said.

Establishing labor unions in foreign companies in China is not unprecedented. In August, 2006, a labor union was established in Beijing's Wal-Mart. The Carrefour chain of hypermarkets has had a labor union for many years.



# Sex shop getting a foothold



The sex toy exhibition in Shanghai attracted 10,000 visitors at the opening day.

Photo by Zhang Di

By Annie Wei

Every time one passes those shabby, dark, little shops with "Sex Shop" written in chalk on the window, questions are raised. What do they sell in those dingy, little

dugouts? Who shops there? Do they make money? Or, if Chinese people are as open-minded as some media describe, why aren't there well-known local brands of these establishments in a market of a 1.3 billion?

## History of China's sex shops

Wen Jingfeng, 49, the first adult health retailer in 1993, just published his first book to describe the experience of operating an adult store in China for 15 years, and how the market has developed for such retailers.

In 1991, when Wen talked about his ideas of opening a sex shop after being influenced by a logo he saw in a French movie, the employees thought he was crazy. Before 1999, all condom factories needed to be approved by the Family Planning Committee. The committee was the only legal buyer in China that bought condom products from factories and then sold them wholesale to different state-run organizations and retailers.

Apart from condoms, Wen and his employees were not even sure they could get enough additional suppliers to run a store.

But he still managed to open one, euphemistically named Adam and Eve Health Center, at the east gate of the People's Hospital in Xicheng District.

Store staff was hard to find at that time. The first employees were medical graduates from places far outside Beijing, so they would not be recognized by their parents. The first female shop staff member was a doctor from an obstetrics and gynecol-

ogy department, who had to fight with her fiancé to work in the shop.

Being the first of its kind, Adam and Eve had great success on the Chinese mainland. All the international TV stations and news agencies had stories on the shop and Wen's photo appeared in *Time* Magazine, leading department stores in town to knock down his door to get involved.

No wonder foreign tourists were shocked to see the "Sex Shop" sign hanging in Wangfujing or Xidan back in 1995 and 1996 and they commented how open-minded the Chinese had become already.

The sex shop boom exploded everywhere after 2002, Wen said. Adult health shops are, at present, commonly seen all over the country and "sex" now is not an embarrassing word to hang outside.

**There is no accurate way to count the actual number of these stores in Beijing, since different sex toys are registered in different categories like medicine, health-care or toys.**

Wen guesstimated a thousand, as it is an easy business in which to make small money.

The commonly seen type of sex shop in neighborhood community is normally run by



China's first adult health retailer since 1993



Wen Jingfeng, the first sex shop operator in Beijing was interviewed by media all over the world 15 years ago.

Photos provided by Wen Jingfeng

a couple, Wen said. It requires little space and, apart from selling sex products, cigarettes and groceries are also sold.

## Colorful customers

Wen has had many interesting experiences with his customers. "It was like a documentary, recording the changes in Chinese people's sexual attitudes," he said.

In 1995, Beijing TV Station introduced a program to promote adult health education. The opening scene featured Wen's Adam and Eve store and a 40-year-old man staring at the store's products with half-opened mouth. The program received high ratings. However, the actor used in the program came to Wen later and asked him to talk with the TV people and have them disguise his face.

"The poor fellow became hot gossip. His wife claimed that he was frequenting sex shops because he was having an affair and his daughter joked he was shameless," Wen said.

But the man got promoted soon after his boss saw the program saying that he



80 - 90 percent of adult toy products from China are for overseas orders

Photo by Shen Jingwei

had guts.

In 1996, a curious customer dressed like a movie star wearing sunglasses sneaked in the store one night. He said nothing but just pointed at products he wanted and

walked away. Later, Wen got a phone call from him, "Get what I just pointed out wrapped up and bring them to a Mercedes-Benz parked across the street." The mysterious stranger said.

The customer got what he wanted and sped away as quickly as possible leaving behind 5,000 yuan.

In 1997, a father came in with his son for help; in 2004, a beggar entered the store refusing money but looking for condoms.

Customers now are very different from 15 years ago. Wen said that good adult health shops in China are no different from those in Europe or the US, and customers range from young to old, men or women.

**"The customers are very sensible in their buying strategies and bargain just like buying anything else," Wen said.**

## Buyers and sellers

In August 2007 in Shanghai, the China Sex Exhibition was a huge hit and it attracted 10,000 visitors on its first day. Reports said the exhibition was forced to reschedule and to extend its hours from daytime to night as many business people complained they had no time to visit.

The second China (Shanghai) adult sex exhibition will open this April. Wang Dajiang, representing the organizer, said they expected 300 exhibitors and already had 200.

"The market is really big," Wang said. **"Its roughly estimated market value has reached 160 billion yuan."**

Shanghai and Guangzhou, being more commercially-driven than Beijing, are the top two centers for the sex product market.

One of his clients, a manufacturer from Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, who produced sex massage chairs, had a revenue last year of 600-700 million yuan, with each chair averaging around 20,000 yuan, Wang said.

Bai Zhicheng, a 30-something marketing manager from the Shaki adult toy factory in Shenzhen, one of the leading manufactures in China, said domestic demand for sex toys was not big yet as it took a long time for mass Chinese consumers to accept them.

Although Shaki is one of the best known adult toy brands, it has not reached the heights of Dulex yet. With strong branding, Dulex owns over 50 percent of the Chinese condom market, Wen Jingfeng estimated.

Bai said Shaki would start brand imaging in the domestic market in another five years, when the market was more open to accept it.

Right now, there is very little market analysis. None of the manufacturers interviewed said they had any data about customer positioning. They still mainly fill overseas orders.

At present, only 20 percent of their annual product sales are in the domestic market, and 10 percent of their domestic sales are online. Beijing and Shanghai are estimated to consume 10 percent of the total market separately, Bai said.



# Will China export its inflation?

(The Guardian) – Fears that China may export inflation to the rest of the world were heightened Tuesday when the government announced the sharpest rise in the cost of living in 11 years.

With food prices rising steadily following severe New Year storms, the annual inflation rate in the fast-growing develop-

ing economy reached 7.1 percent last month.

Food prices were up 18 percent on January 2007, when blizzards took seven million hectares of agricultural land out of production and paralyzed distribution systems across the country. Analysts said further increases were likely over the coming months,

putting pressure on the authorities to tighten economic policy.

Stephen Lewis, economist at Insinger de Beaufort, said there were clear signs that price rises were spreading from food to the rest of the economy, and that this had implications for countries that import Chinese goods. "It is now received wisdom that,

over the past decade or so, the expansion of China's international trade acted as a disinflationary influence in importing countries," he said.

"The fear now is that a faster rate of Chinese domestic inflation will be reflected in an upturn in the prices of goods China sells abroad."

## Expert comment

By Huang Daohen

Is China unfairly blamed for global inflation? With inflation on the march around the globe, and food prices in major world markets soaring last year – the Food Price Index has risen by nearly a third, a historic high.

This huge increase has led many to consider that China, with the world's largest population, is consuming too much food, and would finally export its inflation.

But Ding Shengjun, a researcher at the Academy of the

State Administration of Grain, doubts that changes in consumer prices has pushed prices up – or down – elsewhere in the world. The professor argues that China is not only not the culprit of sharp food price increases, but is an important factor in food price stability.

China imports food every year, Ding said.

In 2006, the country exported 6.45 million tons of grain, but imported 1.45 million tons.

Imported grain is mainly used to widen grain variety, Ding said.

For instance, some special imported wheat is ground together with Chinese wheat into flour to make specialty foods.

For China's growing demand for soybeans, Ding said imported soybeans are mainly used as raw materials in vegetable-oil processing companies, and some of these products are exported and sold on the international market.

The professor said food security can be guaranteed with the country's total food output now at 502 million tons. However, China must also admit to long-term food

pressure, he said.

Ding said that it is not only Chinese pork and noodle eaters that are pushing up world food prices.

"China alone is not capable of causing great disruption," he said.

Statistics from the Ministry of Land and Resources showed that the country's total farmland amounted to 120 million hectares. By the middle of the next decade, it will produce about 700 million tons of food for 1.48 billion people.

## China launches first anti-AIDS drive for gay men

(AFP) – Chinese authorities have launched their first anti-AIDS programme focused on gay men, amid rising concern that the disease is becoming more prevalent among homosexuals, state press reported yesterday.

The programme has begun with efforts to learn more about gay lifestyles, the health ministry said, according to the *China Daily*, after decades of disbelief from the government that homosexuality was anything but a mental problem.

"The programme aims to strengthen measures to prevent and control the deadly disease among the homosexual community," the *China Daily* quoted Wang Weizhen, a senior official with the ministry's HIV/AIDS prevention department, as saying.

The programme will also deliver special funding and technical support to gay men, Wang said, without giving further details.

## China to bring in more Pandas for Olympics

(Reuters) – Beijing Zoo is expanding its panda exhibit for the 2008 Olympics and will ship in up to 10 more for visitors to see during the August Games, an official said.

The zoo is expanding its facilities to accommodate the additional animals and is also building a Giant Panda Museum which will document efforts to save the endangered species, a zoo spokeswoman said.

"The pandas will be on loan from the Wolong Giant Panda Centre, but the numbers to be brought in are still under negotiation," she said.

According to the *Beijing Youth Daily*, up to 10 more pandas would be brought in from Wolong, the world's most successful panda breeding centre located in southwest China's Sichuan province.

The panda exhibition is the most popular attraction at the Beijing Zoo and currently houses seven of the animals.

## Regulators denounce station for sexual shows

(Canadian Press) – Chinese regulators have lashed out at a provincial radio station that allegedly continued to air sexually explicit shows, despite earlier sanctions under a campaign against obscene content in local media.

Guizhou Radio Station renamed a program banned for its sexual nature but kept broadcasting the offensive content, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, or SARFT, wrote on its Web site Wednesday.

The order, dated Tuesday, did not give specifics, but said the program "sensationalized sex life, sexual experiences, sexual organs and the impact of sexual-enhancement drugs."

SARFT ordered the show pulled and demanded provincial regulators investigate key officials at the Guizhou station.

# Russians ready to rumble



By Wan Ran

More than 30 Russian tourists were taught Tai Chi by a Chinese coach on Monday at the bank of Sanya Bay, Hainan Province.

The tourists enjoyed not only the beautiful views of

Sanya, but also exercise and exposure to Chinese philosophy and culture.

With China and Russia getting closer in their ties, kung fu became a popular in parts of Russia.

Photo by Li Yingting

# WTO rules against China for first time on car parts

(AP) – The World Trade Organization recently issued its first official condemnation of Chinese commercial practices, siding with the US, the European Union and Canada in a dispute over car parts.

The WTO found that China was breaking trade rules by taxing imports of auto parts at the same rate as foreign-made finished cars, according to a copy of the ruling's conclusions.

In the sweeping decision, the three-member WTO panel voted against China on nearly every point of contention with the US, the 27-nation EU and Canada. The panel found that Chinese measures accord imported auto parts less favorable treatment than sim-

ilar domestic auto parts.

The three trade powers argued that the tariff was discouraging automakers from using imported car parts for the vehicles assembled in China. As a result, car parts companies had an incentive to shift production to China, costing jobs back home, they said.

The ruling, to be officially released later this year, will be closely watched by makers of everything from batteries and brakes to seats and spark plugs on both sides of the Atlantic.

The decision is officially only an interim ruling. But no panel has ever changed its findings between interim and final decision.

## Expert comment

"I think the WTO's preliminary ruling is not fair," Zhou Shijian, standing councilor of China Societies for WTO Studies, said.

Statistics show that China imposes a 25 percent tariff on whole vehicle imports, and a 10 percent tariff on auto parts. The auto part imports from the US to China grew by 38 percent during the period between January and July last year. "It suggests there is no limit on auto part imports," Zhou said.

China considers auto parts a whole vehicle if they account for more than 60 percent of the value of the final vehicle, and it charges a higher tariff for them. The measure is meant to keep people

from exploiting the tax difference between importing entire automobiles and auto parts, he added.

The final ruling by the WTO will not be issued until after June this year. China still has a chance to argue and appeal, Zhou said.

Zhou said the Chinese should try hard to argue with the organization (WTO) before the final decision is made. Even when the final ruling is made, it still can submit an appeal. China should try to protect itself based on WTO rules, he added.

Industry insiders said no matter what the final decision is, it will not have a large impact on the domestic auto market.

(Agencies)



# China's steel prices face unprecedented high

By Huang Daohen

The steel industry may face an era of high costs after the massive 65 percent price hike in iron settled by leading mills in Japan and South Korea for the year, Xinhua news agency reported.

This follows the setting of a global benchmark by Brazilian miner Vale.

The 65 percent increase, taking effect April 1, means the production cost for each ton of steel will increase 300 to 400 yuan. For instance, Wuhan Steel maker will

increase 3.5 billion yuan of cost calculated at the new price, taking up one third of the profit last year.

Experts estimate that China's steel production cost may rise above 20 percent in 2008, according to the report.

Baosteel and Wuhan steel makers raised their steel price to about 5,300 yuan per ton on average as of February 15, up 600 yuan compared to the last year, to compensate for the hike.

The rise adds pressure for steel makers to transfer their

core business to improve competitiveness, Hou Wei, a senior analyst with the Chinese Umetal.com Web site, told Xinhua.

"For a steel maker, I think the best way to reduce pressure caused by rising costs is to improve its scientific technology in order to boost profit margins," Luo Bingsheng, deputy director of the Iron and Steel Association, said.

Luo predicted the country would import as many as 400 million tons of iron ore this year; the aggregated cost for the whole

industry would see a US \$10 billion increase.

US steel makers could benefit from the new iron ore price hikes because, unlike Chinese manufacturers, they are less dependent on global supplies of the raw material, the *New York Times* reported on Tuesday.

"Ironically, the higher the increases in global Fe (iron ore) costs, the better off domestic steel makers are," Michelle Applebaum, industry analyst of Michelle Applebaum Research in Chicago, said.

## Cruise liner begins regular stop in Sanya



The Luxury cruise ship Marine Wind berths at the Fenghuangdao International Liner Port in Sanya, a Hainan Province city, Wednesday. US liner company Royal Caribbean has started a regular line from Hong Kong to Sanya since.

Photo by Huang Ju

## S Korean investors' flight strands workers

By Annie Wei

The South Korean government announced this week that it would "take measures" to deal with its investors who illegally abandoned their Chinese businesses.

A South Korean-based newspaper reported last month that many South Korean manufacturers fled, abandoning factories full of equipment.

These manufacturers could not pay their workers' salaries, or they were in debt, according to the report. The problems were allegedly caused by changes in the country's tax policy, enhanced restrictions to protect the environment and workers' demands for a raise.

Rather than go through formal closure procedures, the investors fled without paying their workers or their due taxes, since they "thought Chinese liquidation procedures were complicated, and they had to return their favored conditions when they entered

China," the newspaper reported.

According to the article, 103 South Korean enterprises left Jiaozhou, Shandong Province, in this way.

The newspaper reported that 20 percent of the 20,000 South Korean invested-enterprises in China lost everything, and 4,000 are expected to leave China.

In December 2007, a labor dispute lasted seven days in Shanghai Chongming. The local newspaper said a South Korean-invested textile company never paid the salaries, insurance or required overtime pay of its 1,800 workers.

Industry experts said the company suffered from increasing oil prices and the increased value of the yuan.

Korean executives fled another local leather company at night last year, and delayed paying their workers for months.

South Korean experts said China's economy is in a shift from light-industry to heavy chemicals, and its environmental controls

are making business difficult.

As many as 70 percent of textile, apparel and food processing manufacturers have lost money, according to the report.

Deng Che, vice director of China Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment (CAEFI), said CAEFI would expand its investigation, as many provinces are experiencing an exodus of South Korean manufacturers.

"The number was exaggerated. Very few enterprises are leaving China," Zhang Yansheng, director of foreign economic institute of National Development and Reform Commission, said.

Zhang said that some enterprises were manipulating the media to influence government policy.

Other Chinese publications said most South Korean enterprises that ran away, shut down or transferred property were small-scale leather, clothing or toy manufacturers that relied too heavily on cheap labor and preference policies.

## Burkle adds to Xinhua stake

(Forbes) - Billionaire Ron Burkle, a favorite of the *New York Post's* gossip column Page Six, increased on Tuesday his stake in Xinhua Finance Media to a total of 12 percent of the company's outstanding common shares.

Burkle paid US \$30 million for convertible preferred shares; this was in addition to the almost US \$28 million Yucaipa slapped down for common shares from existing stockholders in September.

The company will also be entitled to one board seat on the Chinese Media company's board.

Xinhua Finance Media takes its name from an alliance made eight years ago with the Xinhua News Agency, the country's state-run new wire.

## China Eastern to set up Happy Airlines

By Huang Daohen

China Eastern, the nation's third-largest carrier, has won official approval to establish a regional airline with a major Chinese aircraft maker, Xinhua reported on Tuesday.

China Eastern will invest 400 million yuan (about US \$56 million) and take 40 percent of the new company, which will be named Happy Airlines and target west China's middle- and low-end tourist market, the *Beijing News* reported.

The state-owned China Aviation Industry Corporation I, a traditional military aircraft maker and the manufacturer of China's first home-made passenger airliner ARJ-21, will take the rest, it reported.

## China Mobile reveals 400,000 cracked iPhones

By Huang Daohen

China Mobile, the nation's largest wireless carrier, said there were 400,000 unlocked Apple iPhones using its cellular network service at the end of 2007, Market research firm In-Stat reported.

The number represents approximately 10 percent of the touch screen handsets sold at the time.

With the iPhone not yet officially available in China, savvy entrepreneurs have been purchasing hundreds of thousands of iPhones in the US and Europe, then cracking the operating system to allow the device to be used on any GSM network, the report said.

"The figure surprised us as it was four times what we estimated," the firm said. "We have never doubted that the iPhone will achieve greater success than the iPod in China if Apple teams with China Mobile to launch its Chinese version."

## Thousands of Hong Kong factories in China may close

(AFP) - Up to 14,000 Hong Kong-owned factories in southern China may close in the next few months, in part due to the crippling winter weather that hit the nation earlier in February, a report said Monday.

Labor and power shortages in the aftermath of the heavy snowstorms will hurt operations, Clement Chen, chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, said.

China's worst winter in 50 years paralyzed transport networks, leaving hundreds of thousands of migrant workers from the north stranded in the Pearl River Delta ahead of the Lunar New Year.

Chen estimated more than 30 percent of them may still not have returned when factories reopened Monday.



# Good Samaritans, beware!

By Wang Chuyang/Gan Tian

Last Friday, a 90-year-old woman, fell on Jiefanglu Road in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province. After 20 minutes, no one in the street approached her to help.

A woman, surnamed Wei, discovered the woman lying in the street, vomiting. "I didn't know when she had fallen. When I found her, she was lying there," she said. All the passing pedestrians ignored her.

Wei said she was a little afraid. "Though I was worried about her, I was reluctant to approach her. It's hard to explain," she said. Then, she explained to some nearby on-lookers that it was not she who had knocked the old woman down. "I had nothing to do with her mishap," Wei said.

After some pedestrians gathered, Wei called the police. Only after the police arrived did someone call for an ambu-

lance. Twenty minutes later, the fallen woman was transported to the hospital.

Wei said she had no choice in this matter. She said, "She is pretty old. If I helped her but she was not okay, I would have caused trouble for myself."

The case is reminiscent of the Peng Yu case. Peng was charged by an old woman he had helped. The woman slipped and fell as Peng was passing by. He helped her and sent her to a hospital at her request. However, after arriving at the hospital, the old woman told the doctors that Peng had run her down. He denied the charge.

Later, the old woman took the man to court. The jury's verdict was that Peng should compensate the old woman for medical treatment fees of 40,000 yuan. The judge said that if Peng did not knock her down, he would not have helped her.

## Comment

### Morals versus rules

*Yes, we are all afraid of getting in trouble. Peng's case suggested that we need rules to protect those who are brave. Moral deeds need to be rewarded, not with deception. If there are no rules and regulations to protect those people, no one would stand out to carry the responsibility of helping others.*

— Woshi

### Better than doing nothing

*To find a bunch of people who could prove her own innocence shows this lady was clever. We must know how to do things smart.*

*It was better than those who stood by and did nothing. We should say it is not a collapse of morals, but a big step forward.*

### Fears lead selfishness

*Fear leads us into living selfishly. There are many more beautiful stories of people lending a helping hand! It's just that the media never reported those.*

— Linda Dimichel

### Wise behavior

*I think the woman is clever. If I met this situation, I would also find some people to prove I had nothing to do with her falling down, and then lend my hand. These days, people are getting wiser.*

— Jack Shooter

### Lei Feng days are gone

*The case has destroyed our efforts committed to public charity, also ruined the lifetime achievements of Lei Feng.*

— Jones Lee

## Room crammed with students trying the exam

*This picture shot on Wednesday shows over 7,000 candidates in Shandong Province attending the annual enroll examination for the arts major. Recent year saw an increase in the number of students choosing the arts major with the major becoming more popular.*

Xinhua Photo



# Gov removes the fear factor

By Han Manman

China's top press and media watchdog Wednesday presented another circular on how to define "horror and mystery" products. The circular comes only two days after it said fantasy films such as the Harry Potter series were not included in its recent nationwide sales ban on audio and video products containing elements of mystery and horror.

Offending content included wronged spirits, violent ghosts,

monsters, demons and other inhuman portrayals and strange and supernatural storytelling for the sole purpose of establishing terror and horror, according to the General Administration of Press and Publications (GAPP) circular.

However, the traditional Chinese myths, fantasy and science fiction stories are "fundamentally different" from the "horror product" the *Beijing Times* reported, citing an

unnamed official with GAPP.

Chinese classics like *Journey to the West*, *The God's Story* and *Strange Tales of Liaozhai* have made remarkable achievements in terms of literature, art and ideology while films such as *Harry Potter* have also helped inspire imagination and creativity amongst children and teenagers, the official said.

The administration issued a circular banning the sales of horror audio and video products

last week, which ordered all publications with elements of mystery and horror to be taken off the shelves and videos currently in production, must delete any hint of mystery and horror.

The government began its crackdown on so-called "terrifying publications" in April 2006, specifically targeting a Japanese comic book titled, *Death Note*. It told of a notebook that can kill people if their names are written in it.

## Comment

### Horror harmful to their heads

*The violence and cruelty involved in horror products is unfit for children, and extremely harmful to their psychological development.*

— GAPP official

### GAPP's purpose unclear

*While the goal is to control and remove the negative effect this kind of material has on soci-*

*ety, it should be pointed out that the measure of a policy is not just its original intention but its operability and intelligibility. Before the authorities rush in to enforce this notice, they should be clear about what exactly they mean.*

— Tang Duanfang, blogger

### Chinese films, not super or natural

*Well, that's basically why Chinese cinema, drama and comics*

*are boring. Supernatural movies are basically Hong Kong movies, not Mainland.*

— Honam, a netizen

### Imaginary friends

*I strongly support the ban. My daughter is a fan of supernatural films. Recently I noticed her talking to herself and I asked who is she talking to? She said that it's her "friend." I am so worried about her strange behavior.*

*I think if I ban her from watching supernatural films she will soon forget her so-called friend.*

— Zhang Mei, a mother

### The Net rules!

*The GATT procedure will not work. Although we cannot see these horror films through TV or buy the DVD, we can always see them on the internet. There is no regulation banning online films.*

— James Li, horror fan

## Officials' info: an open book

By Han Manman

A newspaper that published the contact information of local leaders is the latest buzz in China.

A special four-page edition that lists the names, responsibilities and office phone numbers of local officials was printed in last Saturday's *Kunming Daily*, the official newspaper of the municipal government Kunming in Yunnan Province. Previously, citizens had no direct way of contacting these officials.

Qiu He, the city's party secretary and member of the standing committee of the Party's provincial committee, and mayor Zhang Zulin headed the list.

The newspapers were sold out soon after hitting the shelves, and more copies had to be printed the next day for local residents.

Some worry about whether they will actually be able to contact the officials, others warn of possible harassment by a disgruntled few, while some say that the value of the initiative can't be overestimated.

## Comment

### Superiors become better watchdogs

*Publicizing these phone numbers not only benefits the people in directly relating their problems, it also helps superiors monitor lower-level offices. Doing this might make some officials uncomfortable, but as it stands, officials are too comfortable and the people are too uncomfortable, so how you view this really depends on your position.*

— Wu Tinggen, an official

### Crank calls

*The publishing of the list could carry a lot of negatives, such as overwhelming government offices with annoying phone calls and impeding normal operations.*

— Wu Zhe, blogger

### Sunny side up

*China's leaders say the long-awaited national ordinance on openness of information, due to take effect this May, will usher in an era of "sunshine" governance in which government affairs are marked with clarity and transparency.*

— David Bandurski

### Plastic promises

*This is only a government show to flaunt how transparent they are. I don't think these officials will really sit down and carefully listen to the citizens' phone calls. I know they will pay attention at first, but a month down the road they will succumb to boredom and laziness.*

— Super, netizen

### No more secrets

*All official numbers, including my own, will be made public. In the near future, we will not only provide officials' details, but also publicize the administrative examination process and approval system and fee standards.*

— Ying Yongsheng



# Water Cube — a bubbly wonderland



The Water Cube at night.

Photo by Shi Gang

By Jackie Zhang

Tuesday, the curtains of the 16th FINA Diving World Cup rose in the Water Cube, the National Aquatic Center. It is the second time the Water Cube has received athletes from all over the world, after the Good Luck Beijing 2008 Swimming China Open at the end of last month.

## Construction

The Water Cube is the central structure for Olympic water sports

## Bird's Nest visitors perch on bridge, jam up traffic

By Wang Chuyang

Finding the perfect vantage point to take in the splendor of the Bird's Nest is no easy task. Unfortunately for the city's traffic, Beichen Bridge on north Fourth Ring Road seems to be a favorite spot with tourists, photographers, and vendors.

Tourists to the area eager to get their photos in front of the Bird's Nest blocked traffic on the bridge for as far as 5 kilometers during Spring Festival.

The Nest is the showcase venue for this summer's Olympic Games. Some visitors pulled their cars to the shoulder of the bridge, further jamming up traffic while they posed for a shot.

Last Saturday, a police car was parked on the bridge to deter drivers from stopping. "The bridge is off-limits to pedestrians and parking," the on-duty officer said.

A driver who asked not to be identified said he knew it was dangerous to linger on the bridge. "But my brother's family is in town to visit, and they really wanted to have a closer look at the new landmark," he said.

He also said he hoped the government would set up a special lookout point so tourists and locals alike could observe the Bird's Nest and "Water Cube," the national aquatics center, without putting themselves at risk.



Tourists flocked to get their photos before the Nest.

Photo by Wang Chuyang

competitions, including swimming, diving, water ballet and water polo. The construction of the center used 6,700 tons of steel.

The Water Cube was no less difficult to construct than the Bird's Nest, the National Stadium. Since the outer wall and inner layers of the Water Cube consist of more than 3,000 irregular bubbles, the steel structures for supporting these bubbles must be an irregular, polyhedron structure. The joining work

provided a massive headache for the structures' engineers.

The Water Cube is also the first Olympic project to remove all its supports. The final settling was only 81 millimeters less than the projected 240 millimeters.

## Blue bubbles

The biggest feature of the Water Cube's design is its bubbles and free structures. Its membrane structure consists of 3,000 gas pillows covering 110,000 square meters. It is the largest membrane structure project in the world, and the only big public building sealed entirely within a membrane structure.

The membrane is made of a new type of material, Ethylene Tetrafluoroethylene, or ETFE. It is very tactile and can withstand great pressure.

The membrane has billions of plating points which let sunshine in, but regulate the heat. The space between the outer and inner gas pillows is another way to keep heat off the interior space.

The membrane is also resis-

tant to dirt. Since the material has limited friction, dust cannot easily cling to it. Rain water is all that is needed to wash clean the Water Cube.

## Energy saving

The plating points on the membrane of the Water Cube not only help keep too much heat from entering the center, but also help save electricity. The plating points can help bounce sunlight to ensure comfortable temperatures and lighting inside the center.

## Water saving

The water storage of the Water Cube is 9,910 cubic meters. Its swimming pool stores another 3,750 cubic meters. Another 112.5 to 187.5 cubic meters of water is added to the pool every day. Its diving pool stores another 3,660 cubic meters, and the pool is able to warm up another 2,500 cubic meters of water.

To conserve water, there is a special rain water recycling system in the Water Cube. The Cube can store about 10,000 tons of rainwater every year.

## Chinese divers dominate on day two



Wang Feng and Qin Kai won the first gold medals in the Men's double three-meter springboard event on the first day.

Photo by Liu Ying

By Li Fenghua

Chinese diver Chen Ruolin won the gold medal in the women's 10-meter platform finals with a total score of 449.35 points on the second day of the 16th FINA Diving World Cup at National Aquatics Center, Wednesday.

Wang Xin, also from China, placed second behind her synchronized platform partner by 44.35 points.

The duo came on strong from the start — both performed the same triple somersault in Pile position (DD 3.0) and scored the same points (84.00).

Mexican diver Paola Espinosa, who finished fifth in the semis, scored more than 80.00 points on her last three dives and placed third with 396.35 points, making steady progress against the Chinese duo on each dive.

Canadian diver, Alexandre Despatie placed first with 501.05 points in the men's 3-meter springboard semifinals. He Chong, a favorite in this event, placed second with 493.65 points in front of home crowds.

The men's synchronized 10-meter final will be held today, and the women's 3-meter springboard final will start at 7 pm tomorrow. The men's 10-meter platform final will start at 7 pm on Sunday, followed by the women's synchronized 3-meter final.

## Comment

By Li Fenghua



Li Jinghua, a volunteer from Tsinghua University

My job is mainly to examine the passports of guests in the VIP area. Although it is not a difficult job, I have to stand all the time and it's very tiring. But it's rewarding, and the shift changes give us a chance to rest. I appreciate the chance to contribute to the event.



Wang Jiamian, a CCTV broadcaster

I am very satisfied with the services provided by the volunteers. They work very hard and it feels very warm here. The seating and lighting facilities are great. The whole venue has an Olympic atmosphere. The only shortcoming is that it's too hot in the venue.



Zhang Chaoyang, a CCTV reporter

The venue is very beautiful and the facilities are state of the art. Some of my friends from abroad say it is the best indoor diving pool they have ever seen. But I feel the facilities inside are not as good as it appears from the outside. The volunteers are good and welcoming, but some of them seem unfamiliar with the venue.



Tatiana Ortiz, a diving competitor

The competition organization is great! The venue is creatively designed and well-constructed. The pool is beautiful. The people are kind and helpful. I really believe the Olympic Games will be a great success.

Photos by Li Fenghua



# Artist through the looking glass

By Gan Tian

Supported by the Embassy of Israel in Beijing, a French-Israeli artist Fortunee Noel opened her first solo exhibition of paintings on Plexiglass at the Imagine Gallery just before the Spring Festival.

In her works, Noel introduces the Chinese urban worker. Their typical features are captured vividly under the artist's pen: the deep wrinkles on their faces, their dark skin against the transparent horizon, and their bittersweet smiles. All of her works remind the viewers of the vast differences between the modern big city dweller and the rural inhabitant.

Noel also captured on glass the essence of these ancestral hutongs and the transformation of time and space.

The artist arrived in Beijing in November, 2005. It took her one year to prepare this solo exhibition. How the use of transparent material changed the city's face was what Noel wanted to capture in her works. "The use of transparency has many kinds of impact on society," she said. "Basically, if we agree that transparency is the basic concept of capitalism, what we have is a cynical phenomena where poor workers are used by real estate



Fortunee Noel's work hutong

Photo provided by Fortunee Noel

companies to build a new city by the esthetics of capitalism, but, of course, the workers are the last to benefit from it."

In the artist's eye, this city is racing towards modernity. That was one of the reasons Noel wanted to choose Beijing as the theme of her works. "Here I can paint the process," she said. In New York, she could paint only the result, because there the esthetic revolution of capitalism has already been achieved.

Noel focused on the hutong because she thought the loss of tradition was a great pity. However, she did mention that she understood that a city with old values has to evolve. "It is a matter of pace: the hutongs represent Beijing's soul," she said.

The artist graduated from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem in 2003. Different backgrounds gave her different perspectives. "The variety in environment allowed me to compare, revitalize, detect the differences and the essences of particularism," she said. She has held exhibitions in Israel, Spain, Tunisia, the Palestinian Territories and Monaco.

This exhibition continues until March 23.

## Modern Carmen a mixed musical

By Gan Tian

The pop musical, *Carmen - Passionate Love*, will have its world debut on May 15 at the Century Theater. However, the show's director Elmar Ottenthal, musical producer Edi Swoboda, choreographer Thorsten Krafft and the entire cast met with its audience yesterday.

The director shared his experience in bringing this musical to Beijing. He had been searching for the right partners for three years. "I spoke with most companies, but nobody believed

that China could produce such a show," he said.

However, the situation brightened two years ago. "It was August 20, one day before my birthday. I met Xiao Lijun, the general manager of the Century Theater, and we immediately agreed on doing this," Ottenthal said.

The Austrian director was extremely excited at meeting the Beijing audience on this special occasion. "Why did we choose this particular day? Because it is the Lantern Festival today, and we hope this Chinese pop-musi-

cal will go international," he said.

The American music supervisor, KC, presented some music samples from the show to the audience. Growing up in Ohio, he adopted his personal experiences and his understanding of modern Carmen into the piano stylings. KC said it was so great to "be a part of history" in this musical.

The show was inspired by the original compositions of Bizet. However, the story takes place in modern China, merging famous pieces like *Toreador*, *Habanera*, jazz and traditional Chinese themes.



The crew and the Chinese cast are discussing the stories.

Photo provided by Global Stage Group

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# A German's journey into Yunnan's Pumi culture



Anne Kienappel with local Pumi people.

Photo provided by Anne Kienappel

By Li Fenghua

Anne Kienappel, a volunteer at the Beijing-based NGO Global Village of Beijing (GVB), stayed half a year in a Pumi village in the high south-western mountains of Yunnan Province.

Still a student studying International Forest Ecosystem Management at a university near Berlin, Germany, Kienappel had to take an internship abroad in the 5th semester as part of her studies. Due to its rapid development, not only in the economical but environmental field, she chose China as her study area.

In 2006 Kienappel applied at different NGOs and environmental institutions and got connections to the GVB. She decided to stay as a volunteer with the latter throughout the following winter term.

## Prepping for life

In preparation for the internship, Anne exchanged many e-mails with Zhang Hong from the GVB, supervisor for international volunteers. "In the early summer of 2007, he wrote to me saying he had visited a Pumi village that was able to maintain its traditional way of living in the forest. So when he asked me if I liked to come with him to live and work in the village or stay in Beijing, I did not need to think twice about my decision. Getting the chance to experience the Pumi way of living and see their environment was a great opportunity for me."

## At one with the Pumi

"You can sense the connection of the Pumi people to nature in their everyday life," Anne said. The food comes mostly from their own fields and they use no chemicals. Their water for cooking, drinking and washing comes from the clear mountain streams, the

wood for fire is collected dead wood from the forest and they walk the smooth mountain slopes up and down every day with their animals, mainly goats. "I remember that one of my first impressions how healthy their lifestyle was, and what beautiful and handsome faces all Pumi people have."

As a forestry student, it was most interesting for Anne to learn from their indigenous knowledge. So she joined their everyday life and worked together with the women in the forest and on the meadows. In the evening, they visited families, sat together around a fire and spoke about old traditions and shared stories of the past.

"In Pumi culture, nature spirits have high status. They worship mountain and water gods even more than their own ancestors. When they walk through the mountains and stop to eat and drink, they first sacrifice some of their food to the nature spirits. In the morning, when the family gathers around the fire for breakfast, firstly, some bread and tea are offered to the ancestors on an altar in a back corner of the main room," Anne said.

The center of each main room in every house is the *san jiao*. This is a metal ring sitting on three feet set up for a fire for cooking or warming up. The *san jiao* is also used for ceremonies during the Chinese New Year and other main events. Food for nature spirits is offered on the upper ring and, around its feet on the bottom ring, goods are sacrificed for their ancestors.

Twigs of different trees play an important role in Pumi culture, too. On an altar, a pine twig is positioned facing east. For funerals, fir twigs are burned as

a cleaning ritual and to guide spirits toward heaven with the smoke. In a wedding ceremony, a "green house" is created for the bride, consisting of pine stems, fir walls and a bamboo roof. An old Pumi legend tells of the division between man and beast and the wild creatures. For everything they take from "the wild," outside the village and their fields, they need to ask the nature spirit's permission. Examples are hunting or felling trees to build a house.

## Pumi enlightenment

The Pumi have a good feeling towards their environment and a natural respect for the wild animals and plants. They are well aware of the importance of a stable ecosystem to maintain clear water and fresh air for themselves and future generations. They may not know of the chemical reactions within a plant to store carbon dioxide and produce oxygen or about food chains and ecological links within a forest like scientists do, but it is of no concern to them.

"But why do they need to know this when they are successfully keeping their way of life in harmony with nature now?" Anne said. "As part of their lifestyle they naturally understand what I need years of studying to learn. Environmentalists and scientists from other organizations like traveling to rural places and teaching villagers about sustainable development."

But from my experience, it should be the other way round; outsiders and especially city people need to learn from indigenous people like the Pumi. They can learn to respect nature and develop a common sense of living in a real sustainable way with their environment."

# Shaking a leg, Samba-style tonight

By Zhang Dongya

SambAsia Beijing, having just returned from a carnival in Brazil, as part of the world famous Olodum, the inventors of Samba Reggae, will hold a Samba Reggae party at Star Live this Friday.

Samba Reggae is an Afro-Brazilian style of reggae, developed by the descendants of slaves in the state of Bahia, Brazil. A blend of samba and Jamaican reggae music, it is also the main theme of SambAsia Beijing's repertoire, which includes songs by Olodum, Timbalada, Sergio Mendez and others sung in Portuguese and Yoruba.

World beat deejayss Steve Barker, of BBC's "On The Wire," and Dan Stephenson, of Upstepper Sound and The Syndicate, will be invited to spin roots reggae between the live sets. "Steve Barker will break out several of his vintage reggae 45 rpm vinyl singles

and play some rarely heard reggae classics," Leon Lee, a co-founder of SambAsia Beijing, said.

"For the first time, SambAsia Beijing will present a full Rio-style samba show," Leon said. Typically, a samba show is a stage presentation, unlike carnival parading, where the bateria, drum ensemble, introduces each dancer's solo through a set of choreographed moves and an exciting contrast in rhythms and tempos.

Combining Brazilian drumming with music and dance traditions from Asia, SambAsia thinks the transmigration of traditions-rhythmic, cultural and spiritual — from Africa to many parts of the world where slaves ended up including Jamaica and Brazil is an important factor in the development of the music in both countries.

SambAsia Beijing, founded by



SambAsia Beijing enjoys a samba-style party.

Photo by Luna Zhang

Jimmy Biala and Leon Lee in 2006, is a community-based organization that offers several different levels of classes in Brazilian percussion and dance. Moreover, they will take the time to teach the audiences how to shake a leg during the show.

Where: The Star Live, 3 Floor, No.79, Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng  
When: 8:30 pm, February 22  
Admission: 30/40/50 for Students/Advanced/Door  
Tel: 6425 5677, 6426 4436 ext 13 (English hotline)

## Event

### A presentation: Shipwrecks of Mongolia and the Underwater Deer

Back by popular demand, Beijing-based explorer and writer Steven Schwankert reveals the findings of the 2007 Dive Lake Khovsgol expedition. Along with locating two wooden shipwrecks from the 1920s, the team may have come face to face with a lake monster that lake area residents refer to as "The Underwater Deer."

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: February 26, 7:30pm  
Tel: 6586 9507



# Big rail wrapped up



The new South Railway Station has finished construction.

Photo by Xiaoleimichael

By Jackie Zhang

Beijing South Railway Station, the biggest railway station in Asia, will be operating in August. At the end of last month, the station's main structure construction was finished.

The shape of the station's main building is based on the bird's eye of the Temple of Heaven. The station covers a total area of 499,200 square meters, two storeys above the earth and three below. The first floor underground is for passengers to transfer to the subway and public transportation. Subway lines 4 and 14 are

located on the second and the third underground floors.

## Worth the wait

The station waiting rooms are on the second floor. Passengers can get to the rooms directly by the viaduct, which connects the station to city traffic. The waiting rooms consist of three areas: Beijing-Tianjin Intercity Railway, Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway and the regular waiting rooms.

Passengers can reach the waiting rooms from underground by elevators or get on trains directly through a convenient boarding entrance. On

the first underground level, there are seven boarding entrances for normal trains, Beijing-Tianjin Intercity Railway and Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway, in the eastern section. The western area is for ticket sales. Entrances to the subways are centrally located.

## Trouble-free tickets

In order to make it convenient for passengers to buy tickets, 36 automatic ticket selling and examination machines will be installed in the station.

## Sun and sewage

The project of using solar energy electricity generators for

the railway station will be started soon, according to Qiu Zhenhu, director of the Beijing South Railway Station project. There are 4,176 solar energy batteries installed on the roof of the station's main building, covering 6,700 square meters.

In addition, the new station will make use of the underground sewage. Since urban underground sewage's temperature is higher than the atmosphere's in winter and lower in summer, sewage will be used for providing heat and cool air for the station in winter and summer.

## Parking fee at terminal 3 settled

By Wan Ran

Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform has approved the standard of parking fees in Terminal 3 of Beijing Capital Airport.

For small vehicles, parking in the building during the first half an hour is free. Driver needs to pay six yuan for the first hour, and another five yuan for the next per half-hour.

For outdoor parking space, big vehicle costs five yuan per 30 minutes. Any time that is less than half-hour will regard as half an hour.

The fee standard was announced and carried on since Tuesday.

The new terminal also has a new place for passengers who lost things.

## Subway IC cards clipped temporarily

By Wan Ran

A number of stations, 19 in total, on subway lines 1 and 2, have stopped selling municipal traffic IC cards and providing recharging services until March 10, due to the construction on the two lines.

The stations calling the halt are all from lines 1 and 2. Passengers can still buy and recharge at the new lines, which include lines 13 and 5 and Batongxian.

Among the 19 stations, six are on Line 1 and the rest on Line 2.

Passengers can go to the vicinal stations, bus stops or China Post Savings Banks to buy traffic cards or recharge, the working staff from the customer services department, which belongs to Beijing Municipal Traffic Cards Limited Company, said.

Passengers can also get more information by calling their customer services depart-



Traffic ID cards save citizens 60 percent for buses and offer convenience.

Photo by Li Muiy

ment at: 8808 7733 or checking online [bjsuperpass.com](http://bjsuperpass.com), the company said.

All the stations that have stopped selling are as following:

Line 1: Yuquan Lu, Wukesong, Wanshou Lu, Gongzhufen, Military Museum and Muxidi.

Line 2: Changchun Jie, Xuanwumen, Hepingmen, Qian-

men, Chongwenmen, Beijing Railway Station, Chaoyangmen, Dongsishitiao, Lama Temple, Andingmen, Gulou Dajie, A Exit and C Exit of Jishuitan and Chegongzhuang.

Subway stations Yong'anli, Guomao of Line 1 still are open for ID cards purchasing and recharging.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiying@ynet.com](mailto:weiying@ynet.com)

**I have heard there are a few hot springs in and around Beijing. Do you have any information or recommendations?**

There is a great place called Jiuhua Spa and Resort. They have natural hot springs inside a traditional courtyard. In their hotels, you can enjoy the hot springs in your own room. Drive 25 kilometers north from Yayuncun,.

Tel: 6178 2288

Where: Xiaotangshan Town, Changping District

**I looked through the posts and can't find any good information on PDA phones. I am looking to spend between 2,000 and 3,000 yuan and would appreciate any suggestions you might have.**

The following websites can help you:

[expansys.com.hk](http://expansys.com.hk)

[mobem.com/products/CE-Star.php](http://mobem.com/products/CE-Star.php)

**I am an expat, who works as an intern for an international company and earns 3,000 yuan per month. But I was told that I need to pay taxes on that amount. A friend told me that expats in China do not need to pay taxes if they earn less than 4,000 yuan. What are the facts?**

You do not need to pay any tax because wages and salaries are taxed on the basis of the balance of taxpayer's monthly wages and salaries after a lump sum deduction of 4,800 yuan. You can also check out here: [de2.mofcom.gov.cn](http://de2.mofcom.gov.cn) for more info.

**I will travel to China in a month. However, I have heard there are some new rules about entering China. Is this true?**

It is true. Firstly, you no longer need to fill in a medical slip upon arrival. Before, you had to declare that you had no diseases, or hadn't been around chickens in the last week. Secondly, there are no more customs declarations upon entering China. And lastly, the entry form. Before, this was just one piece of paper that you had to fill out and it had two parts with both parts requesting the same information as on the initial sheet. Now, it is separated, and the one half is left in your passport.

**I am moving to Beijing very shortly and I want to find a really good map of the city. I have searched online but can't find an A-Z style map one where I can search and then zoom in or out to get my bearings. Any recommendations?**

At this site you'll find a good map in English. It has in-depth details and you can zoom to X500. The only thing you need to do is download the free map of Beijing. [mapmatrix.com/tmhtml/htmtm/02101.html](http://mapmatrix.com/tmhtml/htmtm/02101.html).

By the way, you can also find some places directly with the following link: [en.beijing2008.cn/emap](http://en.beijing2008.cn/emap).

(By Wan Ran)



# Bathhouses:

## a Beijing

By He Jianwei

The first public bathhouse in Beijing was opened during the late Qing Dynasty.

The traditional bathhouse has a long history. Although modern bathhouses have been decorated, the traditional role in Beijing remains.

### History

The birth of public bathhouses is related to hotels. In Bianjing, modern Kaifeng, Henan Province, the capital of Song Dynasty (960-1127), public bathhouses were first introduced, according to the Song Dynasty records.

However, the oldest public bathhouse in Beijing can be traced back as far as the Qing

Dynasty (1644-1911). "Yong Quan" bathhouse opened near Xisi during the Qing Dynasty reign (1644-1661).

According to statistics in 1935, there were 10 public bathhouses in Beijing, including 5 for men and 5 for women. The first bathhouse for the female was "Shunshen Women Public Bathhouse".

### In with the old

Drinking tea and taking a bath were the two most important activities in a citizen's life during the late Qing Dynasty. The public bathhouse was not only a place to scrub down, but also a place to socialize with other people.

With 300 years of development, the traditional public bathhouse has formed its own culture and history. The facility not only provided the service of bathing and swabbing, but also offered a pedicure and drinking tea.

In fact, bathing in a bathhouse had a health effect to bathing in a hot spring. The bathhouse usually have a "warm pool" and a "hot pool". People in the former then soaking in the latter to help eliminate fatigue and promote circulation.

### Getting the old "Yo-heave-ho"

In old Beijing's restaurants and bathhouses, the waiters' "yo-heave-ho" announcement was one of the memorable features in Beijing's culture. In fact, the yo-heave-ho cry of the waiters in the public bathhouses was quite unique.

When the customer came into the bathhouse, a waiter would give him or her a number. The number was made up of two pieces. One would be posted on a registration board showing the number of customers. The other would be given to another waiter, who would usher the customer to the request.

When the waiter got the number, he would shout, for example, "Liangge yiwei, xiujiiao yiwei!" (Two customers for swabbing, another for pedicure). The shout was loud and clear so that every corner of the bathhouse could hear the resounding shout.

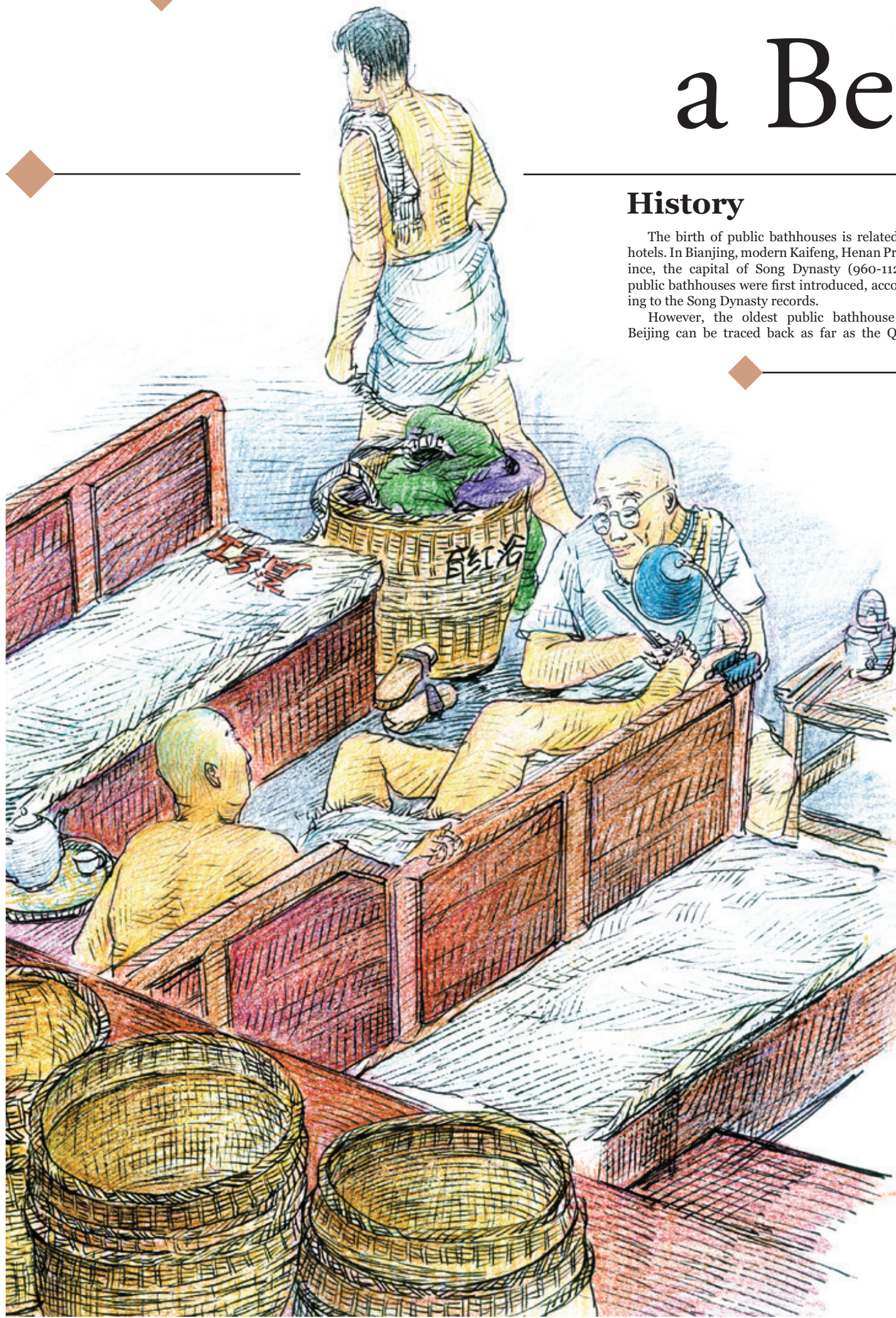
### Where to get w

Most of Beijing's public bathhouses have disappeared. Only a few remain. Most of those remaining have been redecorated to meet modern standards.

#### Qing Hua Chi

The century-old public bathhouse Qing Hua Chi, which was built in 1905, re-opened recently in a brand new building. It covers 8,000 square meters in a hutong not far from the old venue in Xuanwu District.

Qing Hua Chi was originally called Chang Public Bath. Following its expansion, it became the biggest Muslim public bathhouse in Beijing. In the 1950s and 1960s, the bathhouse opened the first pedicure clinic and gradually turned its pedicure profession into a unique craft.



The pedicure has become a unique craft as the special skills are passed down from the masters to the apprentices.

Illustrated by Yanghui Zeyi



national standard for bath enterprises will take effect in the first half of this year, a China National Spa Committee official said last week.

Traditional public bathhouses are a cultural symbol of Beijing. More and more of these bathhouses have been rebuilt or renovated with modern facilities, bathing culture has an important influence on Beijingers' lives.



The public bathhouse was a venue to communicate with each other.



Before taking a bath, the customers put their clothes into baskets.

# watermark

Tang" was Shunzhi's

There were 123 bathhouses in Beijing, eight for men and seven for women. The first bathhouse, opened in 1914 in Xila hutong.

1914 in Xila hutong.

In the past, few people had showers or bathtubs in their homes; going to the public bathhouse was a normal part of a Beijinger's life. These structures, big and well-lit were equipped with all kinds of facilities. The major advantage of public bathhouses was that they conserved natural resources.

## in with the new

There were the two life during the bathhouse was a place to

At Beijing's character in the city's daily provides but also get-

As a similar houses generally. Washing is meant to relaxation.

Tea houses, cement was a folk culture waiter in the bathhouse.

Establishment, a marker, but on a regular bed and but to enjoy a waiter, who provided service.

After marker, wei, cuozao, one for the voice was of the bathhouse.

If the customer was waiting in line, the attendant would shout the customer's number when it was his turn to enjoy the service.

Most of the waiters and the workers in the public bathhouses were from several counties in Hebei Province, so they shouted with a strong accent in Hebei dialect.

### One size fits all

When the customer went to the public bathhouse, he or she was provided with a pair of wooden slippers which were identical with no right or left foot shaping.

Most of the slippers were made from two pieces of quadrangle wood and the shoestrings were old tire rubber.

The floors in most of the bathhouse were cement, so wooden slippers prevented sliding. The footwear was durable and, most importantly, cheap.

In addition, owners of the bathhouses had no concerns over the shoes being stolen.

Beijingers referred to this kind of slipper as "Ta La Ban'er," because of the "clack clack" sound they made on the hard concrete floors.

### Super soap!

When you bathe in a modern bathhouse, you get shampoo, bath foam, perfumed soap and hair care products, but 20 years ago, people used only bar soap.

Bar soap in those days were about 15 centimeters long and contained strong alkaline, which could easily break up oil and stains. Most of the bathhouses cut the soap into four pieces, so the customer could use individual chips.

### Budding bathhouse baritones

When you go to the parks in the morning,

To Beijingers of the past, the public bath was an important part of life. In the old days, a public bathhouse was more or less like a local shop for the residents in hutong area, a place they went regularly. During the holidays and festivals, there would be throngs of people lined up at its gate. It was simply an important place for relaxation and enjoyment.

you can hear some elderly people stretching their limbs and voices. The public bathhouse was also a perfect place for people who wanted to sing some choruses of Beijing Opera.

The public bathhouse was a large hollow area so it produced great resonance. As one spoke loudly, he or she would hear their voice echoed back to them.

### Getting your foot in the door

The pedicure has become a unique craft as the special skills are passed down from the masters to the apprentices.

Yang Xiufang, 44, was the first female pedicurist in China and started her career in Qinghua Yuan in 1981. She left when the bathhouse was torn down in 2000.

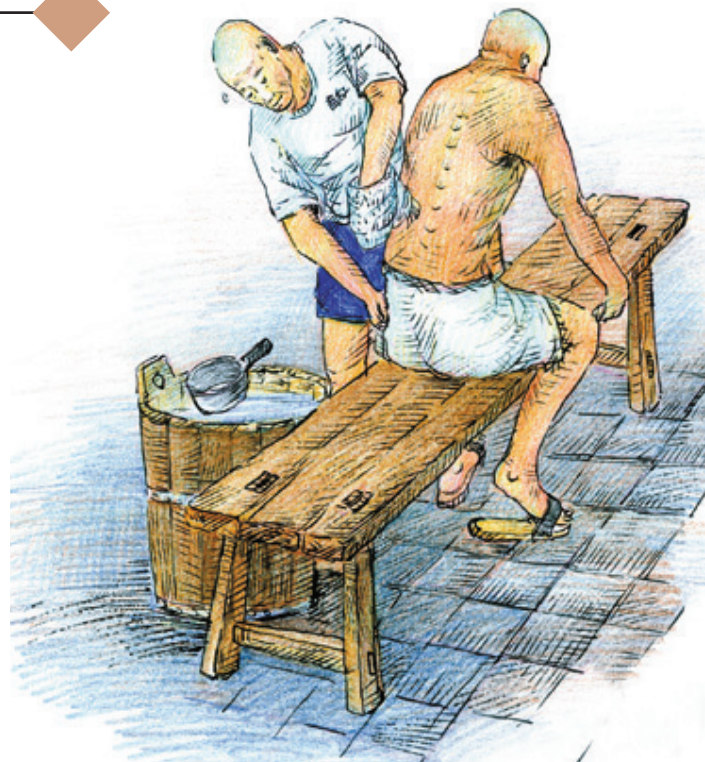
In the 1980s, most people frowned on pedicurists and gave them the boot. "When I started my career it was no easy feat. Most of my customers tried to persuade me not to do it," she said.

As time passed, Yang treated more and more people. "Nowadays, they treat us as doctors because we can deal with foot disease," she said.

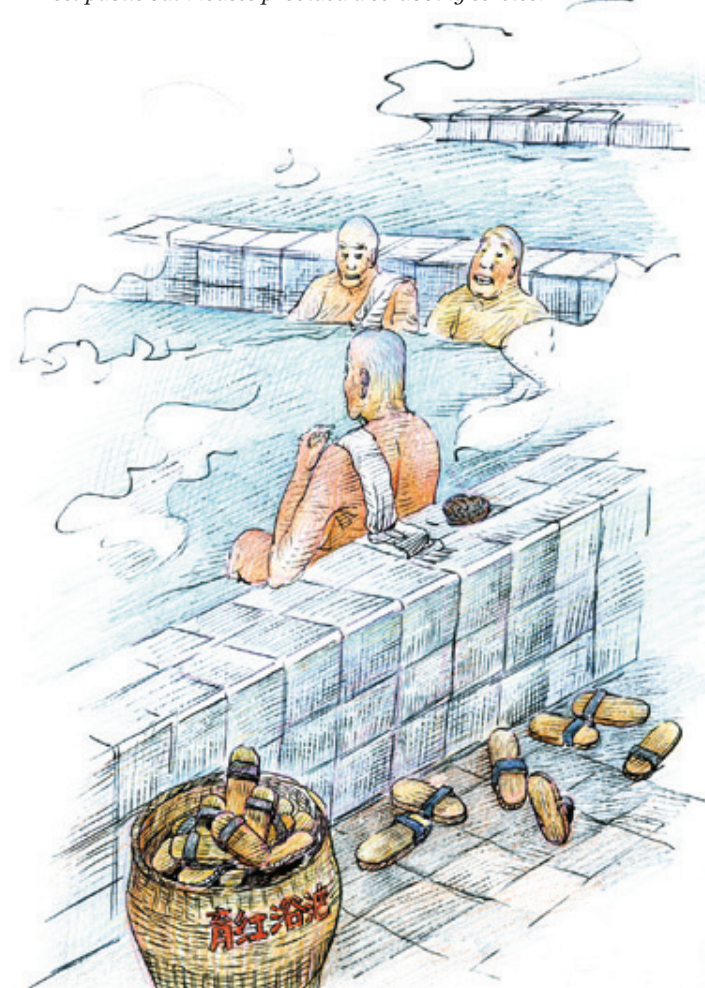
Yang believes that traditional Chinese pedicure skills have more advantages. "Maybe a patient needs an operation in the hospital, but he or she will feel less pain with my treatment," she said.

In the old days, pedicurists treated everyone from high-ranking officials to commoners. Nowadays, customers are from many different countries.

Yang worried about the skills being lost, because most of her apprentices do not have the patience required to become a skilled pedicurist. "The young people learn the basic skills and then believe they will do well," she said.



Most public bathhouses provided a scrubbing service.



Ta La Ban'er, a kind of wooden slippers, were identical with no right or left foot shaping.

## vet

are gone and mainly have yards.

Qing Hua Yuan was built for business covering far from its

Xiao Liang extension, it bathhouse in the establishment in Beijing procedure into

### Xin Yuan Bathhouse

In a small lane near Houhai, there is a public bathhouse called Xin Yuan bathhouse. Most of the regular customers are from neighborhood. It was built in Guangxu Emperor (1875-1908).

There is a big oddly-styled meeting room attached to the big bathing-pool room where regular customers can meet and chat. After the refurbishment, it now also provides a sap package including a bath, a full-body massage, facial treatment and muscle stretching

### Dong Le Yuan

Opened during the Guangxu period, Dong Le Yuan near Chongwen Men provides a full bathing package including bathing, scrubbing, pedicure and haircut.

Additionally, the customer in Dong Le Yuan can give their dirty clothes to the waiters to wash. After the customer finish their bath, he or she can wear their freshly-laundered clothes home.

Dong Le Yuan was redecorated in 1990. The first floor is the bathing center and the second floor is a hotel.

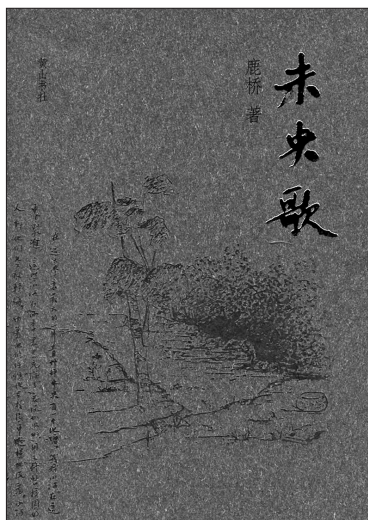
### Qing Hua Yuan

Near Wangfujing Dajie, Qing Hua Yuan is one of the most famous public bathhouse in Beijing because of the experienced pedicurists. It has specific rooms for the customers to drink tea after their bath.

When the bathhouse was torn down in 2000, and the pedicurists opened a clinic not far from the old venue.



# Eating your way slim, for real?



## Song Never to End continues on the mainland

By He Jianwei

In the 50 years since its publication, *Song Never to End* has remained one of the most influential books in Taiwan. It was not until last month that its first mainland edition was available.

*Song Never to End* (Wei Yang Ge, by Lu Chiao, 667 pp, Huangshan Publishing House, 58 yuan) written by Nelson Ikon Wu under the pen name Lu Chiao, talks about the friendship between four young people during the Second Sino-Japanese War.

The mainland edition is printed in traditional Chinese characters. When the publishing house selected the book, Wu refused to allow its publication in simplified Chinese.

The story is set at the National Southwest Associated University in Kunming, and describes four college students' campus lives and their youth, friendship and love. The campus stands as a utopia – isolated from the war-time atmosphere – where youths mature.

Nine editions of *Song Never to End* were pub-

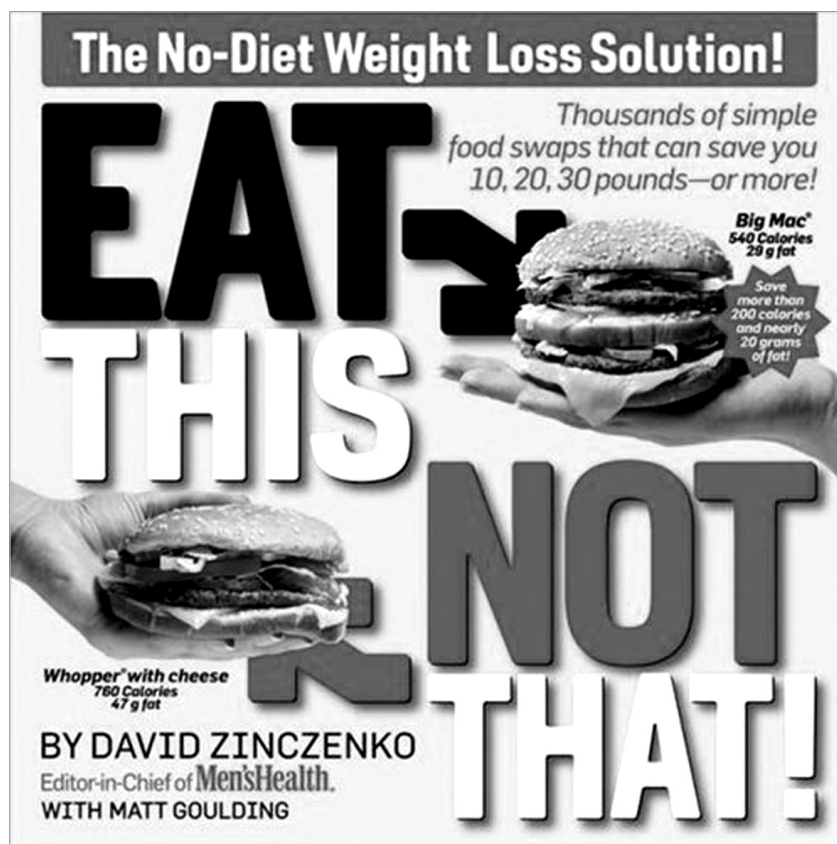
lished in Taiwan. The book sold more than two million copies and attracts readers with its nostalgic take on youth and growth.

*Song Never to End* and Qian Zhongshu's *Fortress Besieged* are regarded as the landmark titles of the 1950s. Qian's book reflects the campus life in a realistic and critical way, but Wu's is in a more idealistic and poetic fashion.

The name Wei Yang is from a style of roofing tile used in Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD), Chang Le Wei Yang, which means everlasting happiness. Wu treated youth as a dream – its days meant for happiness.

### About the author

Born June 9, 1919, in Beijing, Wu earned his bachelor's degree from the National Southwest Associated University in Kunming in 1942, then went to the US in 1945. He attended the New School for Social Research in New York before earning both a master's degree and PhD in art history from Yale University, in 1949 and 1954, respectively. He died of cancer in March, 2002.



Fat used to be a problem worried about mostly by US citizens. Beijing is doing its best to catch up, and children's waistlines are showing it.

The big question is Why? Sure, there are more foreign fast food restaurants headed for the city, but how many parents are skipping the *jiachang cai* for a bucket of chicken or a Big Mac when junior bawls?

Hard to say, but for anyone who frequents the local McDonald's, Taco Bell, Subway or Pizza Hut, *Eat This, Not That!* (304pp, Rodale Books, US \$10.97) may be an eye opener.

Author David Zinczenko, editor in chief of *Men's Health* magazine and author of *The Abs Diet*, drew inspiration for the new book from a same-titled column the magazine used to run.

The book covers each restaurant with many full-color pictures. It says which items on the menu are a belly buster and which may be a healthier alternative.

And the choices are not just salads.

In McDonald's, a Quarter Pounder has 410 calories and 19 grams of fat. It might surprise you that their premium grilled chicken club sandwich packs in 570 calories and 21 grams of fat.

Sure, chicken and fish sound healthier than fatty beef patties, but not the way fast food restaurants do them. At Subway, a 6-inch tuna sub has 530 calories and 31 grams of fat: compared to their 6-inch Double Roast Beef sub, which has a fewer 360 calories and 7 grams of fat.

*This, Not That* does not do one thing most diet books do: assumes you have full control of what you eat. You may not be able to influence where your clients and coworkers want to eat, but you can control what you order while there.

Face it, no one is saying fast food is part of a healthy, balanced diet – well, no one except the lobbyists and hired nutritionists on the industry's payroll. If one has to eat fast food, it's probably a good idea to go armed with this book.

Incidentally, watch out for the Outback Steakhouse, which opened its Beijing branch at Workers Stadium in 2001. Its Aussie Cheese Fries pack in 2,900 calories alone, making it what Zinczenko calls the most unhealthy food in the US, and now possibly China as well.

(By Derrick Sobodash)

## Bookworm book listing

Jenny Niven from the Bookworm recommends three new titles to read during the Beijing Bookworm International Literary Festival, March 6 to 20.

### My Revolutions

By Hari Kunzru, 288 pp, Dutton Books, 220 yuan

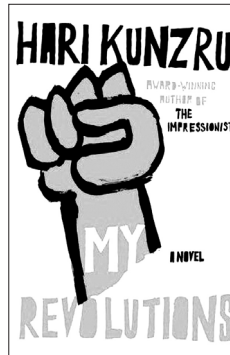
It is the day before Mike Frame's 50th birthday and his quiet provincial life is suddenly falling apart. He lived under another name amidst the turbulence of the revolutionary armed struggle of the 1970s – a past that his partner Miranda and stepdaughter Sam know nothing about. Now Mike is seeing ghosts – a dead ex-lover and an old friend who wants to reminisce. He can no longer ignore the contradiction between who he is and who he once was.



### Notes From an Exhibition

By Patrick Gale, 304 pp, Harper Collins UK, 120 yuan

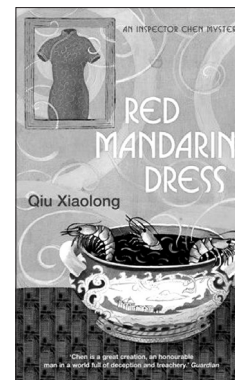
Renowned Canadian artist Rachel Kelly – now of Penzance – has buried her past and married a gentle and loving Cornish man. When troubled artist Rachel Kelly dies painting obsessively in her attic studio in Penzance, her saintly husband and adult children have more than the usual mess to clean up. She leaves behind an extraordinary and acclaimed body of work – but she also leaves a legacy of secrets and emotional damage it will take months to unravel.



### Red Mandarin Dress

By Qiu Xiaolong, 320 pp, Sceptre, 180 yuan

When a young girl is found murdered wearing nothing but a torn red mandarin dress, it does not completely surprise Detective Yu. Possibly one of those material girls fallen foul of the triads or a dangerous Mr Big Bucks. But then a second victim, a nightclub entertainer, is found dead in a similar red dress. With the possibility of a serial killer in Shanghai waiting to strike again, Chen must try to stop the killer under the most unexpected circumstances.



(By Zhang Dongya)



# Stop clipping coupons, start downloading them

By He Jianwei

Need to find a cheap place to eat or which shopping mall has the best deals this week? With the country's consumer price index (CPI) increasing every month and salaries remaining stagnant, finding ways to save money is more important than ever.

Ideas from the consumers

There may be no such a thing as a free lunch, but lunch is not all that important in cyberspace. Several new Web sites have started to collect coupons - and essential part of any office worker's day if he wants to beat the budget crunch. The Web sites allow users to print free coupons, which may be redeemed for discounted or free goods in participating stores.



Xianbing Wang



Kupeng Wang

Two major Web sites

There are two Web sites to provide such e-coupon service: Kupeng Wang, at [icoupon.com.cn](http://icoupon.com.cn), and Xianbing Wang, at [91xianbing.com](http://91xianbing.com).

Users can find coupons for dining, shopping, travel and entertainment. Kupeng Wang's categories also include digital gadgets, housing, health care, automobiles, education and training, and finance and insurance.

The two Web sites use a kind of "virtual money." On Kupeng Wang, every user is given Kubi. The exchange rate is 100 Kubi to 1 yuan.

Users can use Kubi to purchase limited coupons. Each user is given 50 Kubi at registration. When the user logs in, posts in some topics and receives a response, he or she is given Kubi.

On Xianbing Wang, the virtual money is called Xianbing. Users can get more Xianbing through site activities, such as answering questions as watching advertisements. Users will be given goods of equal value.

Popular in three major cities

Residents in as many as 10 cities are registered on the Web sites. Kupeng Wang has opened eight branch sites to service different areas. The bulk of its users hail from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

E-coupons have been popular in Beijing for much of the last year. "Xianbing MM," a woman, organized an activity to promote the coupon service where anyone who redeemed a Kupeng Wang coupon could get a free condom in participating drugstores.

The promotion had people in long lines in front of city drugstores clutching their printed coupons. Following the promotion, the site's membership boomed.

Shanghai claims it is the first city to hatch the e-coupon idea, according to Coco, a netizen who posts on Kupeng Wang.

Guangzhou's users are different from Shanghai's.

"We didn't like the way people in Beijing and Shanghai were printing coupons to take to the store. We would prefer to use the coupons when our bills come," Lin Xiao, a netizen from Guangzhou, wrote.

Photo by Bi Chuanguo



# juice your way to health



## Magimix 14110 Le Duo

The most convenient attractive feature of this juicer is how easily and quickly it allows you to whip up a sweet fruit punch. You can prepare a tongue-tantalizing elixir in advance for a party or simply create it in minutes as your guests arrive. The blue glass design is also easy on the eyes.

Available: Amazon.co.uk

Price: £ 99.99



## Easy Health Manual Juicer

Looking at this juicer's handle, you will conclude that the manufacturers are trying to stay in touch with nature. The long-armed handle will save your strength but also let you enjoy some manual labor. You can use it for juicing most types of fruits and vegetables. Wheat grass juice? No problem, this machine takes it in stride.

Available: boyz-pills.com

Price: £ 28.95

## Electric Fruit Juicer

This is not an egg even though you would swear it rocketed out of the posterior of a very large hen! It is an automatic citrus juicer with two different reamers included. It is very attractive with its mirror finish chrome plating. You could actually put on your makeup looking into its shiny surface while juicing. The ladies have got to love that! This egg-shaped beauty could be "eggs"actly what you need.

Available: kingsofhagley.co.uk

Price: £ 55

## Buying a juicer in Beijing

If you are only interested in ordinary juicers, no need to go too far. Every supermarket has a collection priced 100 to 1,000 yuan. If you want something with an attractive design, search online.

1. Please take into consideration what type of juice you want to create before you buy a machine. Buy the appropriate one for the job. Some juicers are unable to extract wheat grass.
2. Make sure the juicer is light weight and easy to store.
3. A juicer with a wide mouth can save you a lot hassle and time. Your fruits and vegetables do not have to be diced to use the machine.
4. Safety features are very important. It is no fun drawing juice from your fruit as well as blood from your fingers with a shoddy juicer, and then being sprayed down by strawberry juice as a final insult!

By Gan Tian / Wang Chuyang

If you think the city is too dry, why not get a little juicier in the New Year? Maybe you are bored by what the city has to offer juicer-wise. Beijing Today comes to the rescue and suggests some trendy new machines that will produce wonderful concoctions to tickle your taste buds.



## Lemon Squeezer-Metal

If you are tired of being sweet, get sour with some lemon juice. This green monster can help you put a major squeeze on those little yellow fruits producing the most juice but no seeds or pulp! It does not get any sweeter or, in this instance, sourer. No electricity needed here. This is a hands-on machine so you can build up your muscles and appetite at the same time.

Available: amazon.com

Price: US \$12



## Penguin juicer

As Tina Turner would say, "It's simply the best" when describing this juicer. Black and white in color and a super smooth shape make it a beauty. This new model even has a no-fingerprint hygienic coating on the stainless steel model. It is so nice to get up in the morning and make a frosty glass of apple juice without seeing your wife's fingerprints all over the Penguin.

Available: bestjuicers.co.uk

Price: £ 49



## Hamilton Beach Commercial 932 Manual Juicer

An easy lever arm control yields maximum juice extraction. The collector cup is pivoted to swing out for easy, mess-free removal. With its enamel finish, chrome and porcelain components which are acid-resistant, cleaning it is a breeze. The strainer cone and funnel are also removable. This juicer offers a two-year warranty.

Available: amazon.com

Price: US \$185

## Breville 800JE Juicer

A lofty claim but users and retailers say this is the best juicer in the world. Though a tad expensive, it does have an irresistible eye-catching structure resembling a robot. Some diehard juice fans claim this baby "juices better than the US \$3,000 machines used in commercial juice bars." There is only one way to find out - try it.

Available: everythingkitchens.com

Price: US \$299.99





# Juice up for better health

By Han Manman

Drinking fruit juice is common among people who want smooth skin and vitamins. But people worried about the amount of sugar in fruit juice and turned to vegetable juice, which has grown more popular in the last few years.

Nutrition experts say drinking vegetable or a vegetable-fruit juice mix every day is a key to good health.



## What you should know

**1. Choose fresh vegetables:** It is best to choose vegetables that are organic and free of pesticides for juicing. Discard all vegetables that do not look their best. Wash and rinse the vegetables in filtered water before juicing.

**2. Start slowly:** Fresh vegetable juice is more concentrated than the vegetables you eat. The nutrition and benefits of the vegetables are released and available to the body much faster than if your body were digesting a whole vegetable.

**3. Remember to chew:** Most people, when drinking fresh juice, will just drink it like a glass of water. What you should do is chew your vegetable juice. This does a few things including warming the juice to body temperature. The juice mixes with your saliva which further helps your body absorb the nutrients faster.

**4. Drink your vegetable juice right away:** Vegetable juice is very perishable, so it's best to drink all of your juice immediately.

Drinking fresh vegetable juice is not a cure all. Fresh vegetable juice is simply part of a healthy lifestyle.

## Top 5 nutritious vegetables

**1.** Cucumbers are primarily composed of water, but also contain vitamin C and caffeic acid, both of which help soothe skin irritations and reduce swelling. It is good for the hair and nails.

**2.** Tomatoes are high in vitamins A and C, calcium, potassium and lycopene, which helps prevent heart disease and cancer.

**3.** Celery, while low in calories, is an excellent source of vitamin C and contains high levels of potassium, which contributes to healthy skin.

**4.** Cabbage's vitamin U and iron make it one of the best foods for ulcer repair. It may lower the incidence of cancer, especially in the lung, stomach, colon and prostate. Its sulphuric content makes it ideal for treating fungal infections.



**5.** Carrot is the richest source of vitamin A that the body can assimilate. Carrots aid digestion, promote a healthy appetite and are recommended for nursing mothers to improve the quantity and quality of their milk. Carrot juice can calcify poor teeth and can correct faulty circulation.

## Make your juice taste great

One major objection people raise when talking about vegetable juicing is the taste. They can't stand it. Here are some things to juice that can help tweak the taste of your beverage.

**Coconut:** This is one of my favorites! You can purchase a whole coconut or use unsweetened, shredded coconut. It adds a delightful flavor and is an excellent source of fat to balance out the meal. Coconut has medium chain triglycerides, which have many health benefits.

**Lemons:** You can add half a lemon, leaving the rind on. If you are a protein metabolic type, you will not want to use lemons as they will push your pH in the wrong direction.

**Fresh ginger:** This is an excellent addition if you can tolerate it. It gives your juice a "kick"!

**Apples:** Apples are the one fruit you can combine with your vegetable juice.

Vegetables usually require different enzymes for digestion than fruits, but apples are safe to combine.

## Juicy recipes

### The body cleanser

Juice one apple, one inch of ginger and two carrots.

This juice revitalizes the body, fights colds and lends the body a glowing complexion. Beauticians prescribe this juice for its effects on the skin.

### The cholesterol buster

A juice made from apple, cucumber and celery is known to fight cancer and reduce cholesterol. It also soothes upset stomachs and headaches. It is recommended for any 30-and-up juicers.

### Strengthens

### the immune system

Use one cucumber, two sticks of celery, one

small to medium clove of garlic and an inch of ginger. Peel the garlic and remove the skin from the ginger. Feed the ginger and garlic through the juicer in between pieces of celery.

Garlic is a natural antibiotic, and helps to strengthen the immune system and to reduce blood pressure. Cucumber is good for the skin, hair and nails. Celery also contains high levels of potassium, which contributes to healthy skin.

### Super skin

Orange and cucumber are the most vital things to have if concerned about your skin.

A combination of these two with ginger are like a super supplement. The combined effect will improve the skin texture and moisturize.

### Weight loss

Make apple juice from two green apples. Make fresh vegetable juices from four stalks of celery, eight stalks of bok-choy cabbage and a half-pound of spinach. This yields two cups of green juice. Stir and enjoy.

Great for diet and nutrition, this juice drink helps your hair and skin, and prevents bad breath, colds, flu, digestion and gout. It is great for weight loss, cancer prevention and general cleansing.

### Stomach soothing

Juice a head of cabbage, one beet with the greens and two large kiwis. Mix all the juices together in a juicer.



Photos by Liu Ying



# Dining

## Pasta

At East 33, you will be able to enjoy a selection of various pastas, including Chinese and Western style, which changes everyday. Enjoy the variety of Traditional Chinese "Daoxiao Mian" and Tantalizing Scallop and Crab Meat Lasagna, Charred-smell Dry-Fried Beef Noodles and Earthly Wild Mushroom Risotto, Classic Fried Udon with Seafood and an "all-time favourite," Spaghetti Carbonara with Bacon and Cheese Sauce. Indulge yourself with their international lunch buffet, all included.

**Where:** East 33, Raffle Beijing Hotel, 33 Dong Changanjie, Dongcheng

**When:** from March 3

**Cost:** 268 yuan (lunch), 298 yuan (dinner)

**Tel:** 6526 3388 ext 5171 (for reservations)



## Bento & Berries

Catering to the CBD lunch crowd, Bento carries healthy, albeit pre-packaged food, ranging from Bento boxes to salads. The sausage rolls are very good, as are the cakes. It is a good spot for a light lunch.

**Where:** 1/F, Kerry Center Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang

**Open:** Mon-Fri 7 am – 11 pm, Sat-Sun 8 am – 6 pm

**Tel:** 6561 8833 ext 45



## Bocata

This bright and airy cafe, opened by the owner of the Tapas Restaurant, serves up tasty salads and Spanish-style sandwiches to the local lunch-time crowd. The Chicken salad sandwich and the Chili Tuna Salad are both highly recommended.

**Where:** 3 Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang,

**Open:** 11 am – 12 pm

**Tel:** 6417 5291



## RandomK(e)

Founded in Beijing in late 2004, RandomK(e) is an avant rock band which draws upon a range of influences to form its music.

**Where:** 13 Club, 161 Lanqiying, on the West side of Chengfu Lu, Haidian

**When:** 9 pm, February 22

**Admission:** 30 yuan

**Tel:** 8261 9213

## SambaAsia Live

A samba reggae party. Samba reggae is an Afro-Brazilian style of reggae developed in the state of Bahia, Brazil, by the descendants of slaves. It blends samba and Jamaican reggae music and is the main repertoire of SambaAsia Beijing's repertoire which includes songs by Olodum, Timbalada, Sergio Mendez, and others

sung in the Portuguese and Yoruba language.

**Where:** Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng

**When:** 8:30 pm, February 22

**Admission:** 60 yuan (door), 50 (advance)

**Tel:** 6425 5677, 6426 4436 ext 13



# Outdoors

## Tianjin Historical Architecture Tour

This is a unique guided tour by a curator from the Tianjin Modern History Museum exploring the old colonial districts and areas where the western and classic Chinese villas are now used by municipal governmental offices and organizations, including some not open to individual visitors. Some sites you will check out include six European countries legation areas, US barracks and one prince's garden.

**Where:** Meet at the Beijing Railway Station (Jianguomen Nei Dajie, Chaoyang)

**When:** Take the luxurious bullet train to Tianjin at 8:05 am on February 24 and return at about 6 pm on the same train



**Cost:** 400 yuan

**Tel:** 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration at Chinese Culture Club is important)

## Rolling hills and lonely lanes

Follow a lane up to a small village nestled in a valley. From there, down a patchy trail over the hill to Stonewall Village, named for the rocks on the bare hills that protect it from northerly winds – some say it looks a bit like Dartmoor in England.

Branching off the lane that leads away from Stonewall Village is a hidden trail that leads to a clear path through the pine forest. The forest floor has a thick carpet of pine needles, and villagers often come to the forest to collect firewood.

The trail leads out of the forest and follows a zigzag path past an aqueduct and through farmland leading over the rolling hills to a clear and open ridge. There are some great views to be had at



this point, with few people in sight – perhaps only a few shepherds.

This walk is quite long, but not difficult.

**Where:** Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

**When:** 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, February 24

**Cost:** 300 yuan

**Tel:** 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to [lixiaojing@ynet.com](mailto:lixiaojing@ynet.com)



# Spring has sprung,

By Annie Wei

In traditional Chinese medical theory, spring is the time when everything wakes up; the plants green and the body starts feeling more energetic and ready to travel outdoors. It also means minor ailments begin to rear their ugly, little heads. We're talking about dreaded allergies.

## so have allergies

### How to put the squeeze on the sneeze

Some minor allergic situations seem to get better or disappear without treatment. A friend of mine used to be allergic to red wine or seafood. Now she can drink it and enjoy a BBQ feast with friends. She claimed it had a lot to do with her own immune system adjusting.

Why do people develop allergies? When certain substances enter one's body they are considered a germ by the immune system, which causes in an allergic reaction. **It is really the body responding to a false alarm.**

Allergic reactions normally involve the following symptoms: a runny nose, sneezing, itching, rashes, swelling or asthma.

According to a report by a Hong Kong institute, doctors said there were many factors that triggered food allergies, such as work and life pressure, infection, poor diet, over-use of medicines or chemical products and environmental pollution.

Apart from avoiding eating foods that affect you negatively, it is wise to balance life and work, lessen pressure and improve one's immune system with exercise and good diet.

According to a *New York Times* article in January, a mother of four began her journey regarding children's allergies when her youngest child developed a food allergy.

Her theory that "the food supply is being manipulated with additives, genetic modification, hormones and herbicides and causing increases in allergies, autism and other disorders in children – is not supported by leading researchers or the largest allergy advocacy groups."

The mother encouraged others to do what she did, throw out as much non-organic, processed food as you can afford to. Avoid anything genetically modified, artificially created or raised with hormones. Do not eat food with ingredients you cannot pronounce.

### Cleanliness is next to ... allergies

Among theories that weigh the effects of genetics and environment, the hygiene hypothesis is of the highest interest to many health professionals.

For ages, there has been a Chinese saying "*buganbujin, chile meibing*," meaning that eating excessively-cleaned food eradicates disease.

The increasing hygiene situation and a lack of exposure to various micro-organisms may be affecting the immune systems of many populations – particularly in highly developed countries like the US – to the degree that individuals are losing their bodily ability to fight off certain diseases.

The theory of the "hygiene hypothesis" claims that rising incidences of asthma, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple scler-

osis and perhaps several other diseases may be, at least in part, the result of lifestyle and environmental changes that have made us too "clean" for our own good.

The common belief that has driven medicine, as well as public perception and hygiene practices, is that when we get sick, it is because of something we ate, inhaled or were exposed to in some other way. The hygiene hypothesis points in a different direction, proposing that it is a lack of exposure to the "bad guys" that cause real harm.

However, it does not mean that scientists agree that **a toxic food environment has made children's immune systems work better.** It's hard to find an expert in the field who whole-heartedly supports the hygiene hypothesis yet.

### More things to sneeze at

Many years ago, we felt sorry for those people who told you that they could not eat this or that due to allergies. But now, more and more people suffer from allergies and more children are becoming allergic to certain foods.

There are 11 million people in the US suffering from food allergies, and the number is on the rise. For example, the number of children under five years old who were allergic to peanuts, doubled from 1997 to 2002.

People who have allergies often are sensitive to more than one thing. Pollen, dust mites, mold spores, pet dander, food, insect stings and medicines are the most common substances that cause allergic reactions.

In the 1950s, there were two main foods – **milk and wheat products** – caused allergic reactions. The list is getting longer and longer. **Eight kinds of food cause 90 percent of all food allergies: peanuts, nuts, fish, shellfish, eggs, milk, soy beans and wheat.**

Apart from that, scientists have found another 170 foods that can cause problems.

Although there are far less people in China or many other developing countries who are allergic to food compared with people in Europe or the US, the number of Asian people who have food-allergies is ballooning, according to findings from a Hong Kong research institute.

The research also pointed out that egg, milk-products, bananas, sesame and cashews were the most popular food that caused allergies in Asian countries.



Photo by Liu Ying





# Korea

## Sights beyond the South Gate

### Gyeongbokgung Palace

#### Korea's largest wood structure

Gyeongbokgung is one of the five palaces in Seoul dating from the Yi Dynasty (1392-1910). It was also the Palace of Lee Dynasty. The first emperor Lee Seong-gye (1335-1408) moved the capital to Seoul and built the palace in the north part of the city in 1395.

Gyeongbokgung is one of the biggest and oldest palaces in Seoul, and was

the political center of the latter part of Korea's feudal history. The Japanese invasion in 1592 damaged most of the architecture in the palace, and in 1868, only 10 branch palaces remained.

The southern gate of the palace is Guanghai Gate, the main entrance; Jianchun Gate is in the east, Yingqiu Gate in the west and Shenwu Gate in the north.

Inside the palace is Qinzhen Hall, Sizhen Hall, Kangning Hall, Jiaotai Hall, Ciqing Hall, the Qinghui building and the Xiangyuan Pavilion.

Qinzhen Hall was the largest

wooden structure in ancient Korea. It was the place where the emperor met officials. There are three roads in the plaza: the elevated middle road was for the emperor.

Ciqing Hall and Jiaotai Hall are for women. Behind Ciqing Hall is a red-brick wall called the "Ten Long-lives' Chimneys." Ten Long-lives refer to 10 animals and images associated with longevity: rocks, mountains, water, clouds, pine trees, lingzhi, tortoise, deer, crane and the sun. It was the most beautiful chimney in Lee Dynasty, and remains a national treasure.

**Where:** 1 Sejong-no, Jongno-gu, Seoul

**Admission:** age 19 and above, 3,000 won (22 yuan); ages 7-18 half price

**Open:** March to October, 9 am - 6 pm; May to

August, 9 am - 6 pm, 9 am - 7 pm during the weekend and holidays; November to February, 9 am - 5 pm (Closed Tuesday)

**Tel:** 82-2-734-2457

### Jongmyo Royal Shrine

Imperial memorial tablets

Jongmyo Royal Shrine is the place where emperors' memorial tablets are enshrined. Lee Seong-gye built it together with Gyeongbokgung.

There are three roads in: the elevated middle one was for dead

emperors, the east was for emperors and the west was for princes. The road in the middle leads directly to the main hall, while the other two lead to places for bathing, fasting and preparing for the ceremony.

There are 19 rooms in the main hall. Each enshrines one emperor. There are 19 kings and 30 queens

enshrined in Jongmyo.

Jongmyo sacrificial ceremony music consists of instrumental music, songs and dancing. Melodies of 500 years ago are still played today. Every first Sunday in May, people can come and watch a sacrificial ceremony held by the Korean royal families' descendants.

**Where:** 1-2 Hunjeong-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul

**Admission:** age 19 to 64, 1,000 won (8 yuan); ages 7 to 18 half price; over 65 or under 7 enter free

**Open:** March to October, 9 am - 6 pm, 9 am

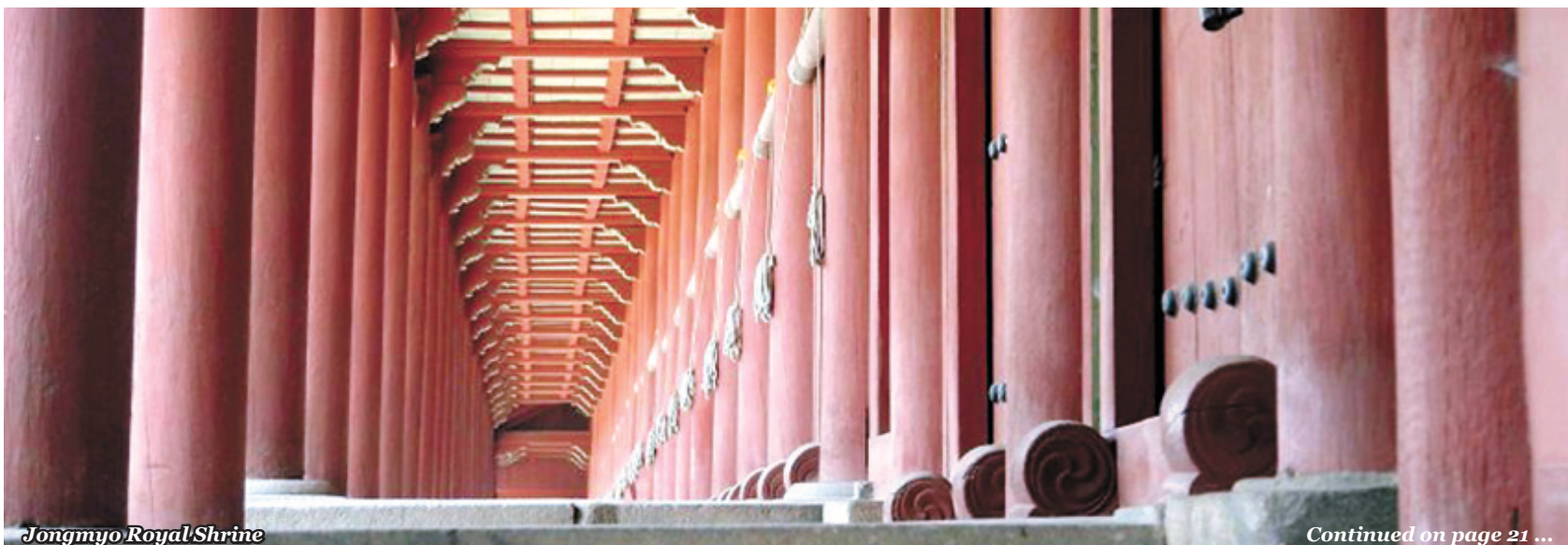
- 7 pm during weekends; November to February, 9 am - 5:30 pm

(Closed on Tuesday)

**Tel:** 82-2-765-0195



Ten Long-lives Chimneys in Gyeongbokgung



Jongmyo Royal Shrine

Continued on page 21 ...



... continued from page 20

## Gyeongju Historic Areas Korea's best Buddhist art

The Gyeongju Historic Areas contain a remarkable concentration of outstanding examples of Korean Buddhist art: sculptures, reliefs, pagodas and the remains of temples and palaces from the flowering of this form of unique artistic expression. Gyeongju City and its surroundings have inherited traces of the glory that flowered and withered in the ancient Silla Kingdom (57 BC - 936 AD).

The center of the town and its suburbs contain many royal burial mounds and Buddhist remains which preserve this apogee of art and culture.

There are three major components that make up the Gyeongju Historic Areas. Mount Namsan, which lies to the north of Gyeongju City, covers 2,650 hectares. There are a large number of prehistoric and historic remains

within the designated area. The Buddhist monuments that have been excavated up to the present include the ruins of 122 temples, 53 stone statues, 64 pagodas and 16 stone lanterns.

The main monuments in the area are the ruined palace site of Wolseong and the Gyerim woodland, which legend identifies as the birthplace of the founder of the Gyeongju Kim clan. To the south, the Namcheon stream forms a natural defense, and ditches were dug around the other three sides to create a water-filled moat. Its history goes back at least to the first century AD.

The Tumuli Park Belt consists of three groups of Royal tombs. Most of the mounds are domed, but some take the form of a half-moon or a gourd. They contain double wooden coffins covered with gravel. Excavations have produced rich grave-goods of gold, glass and fine ceramics. One of the earlier tombs yielded a mural painting on birch bark of a winged horse.

**Where:** Banwolseong, Inwang-dong, Gyeongju, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province  
**Open:** 24 hours  
**Tel:** +82-54-1330

## Hwaseong Fortress Greatest ancient stronghold

Hwaseong Fortress in Suwon City, Gyeonggi-do Province, represents the latest features of fortification in South Korea.

The construction was planned by the 22nd king of the Joseon Dynasty, Jeongjo, when he moved his father's tomb from the Yangju area to Mt Paldalsan in Suwon County in 1789.

The fortress sprawls on both flatland and hilly terrain, something seldom seen in China and Japan. It is designed to serve political and commercial, as well as military functions. Under the influence of Silhak, or Practical Learning, which was the new trend of thought gaining

ground at the time, the fortress was built scientifically utilizing newly invented construction equipment. Fortification facilities were enhanced by properly combining stones, bricks and wood and by incorporating drainage, rampart slit embrasures, crenellated parapets with embrasures and bastions.

The Hwaseong Fortress envelops downtown Suwon City in a huge ellipse running almost 6 kilometers. There are 41 existing facilities along the perimeter, including four cardinal gates, one floodgate and four secret gates. Each structure harmonizes well with the architecture and functions as a key strategic point.

The fortress was registered on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List in December 1997.

**Where:** Jangan-gu / Gwonseon-gu / Ingye-dong, Paldal-gu, Suwon, Gyeonggi-do Province  
**Admission:** adult 1,000 won (8 yuan); soldier and student 700 won (5 yuan)  
**Open:** 10 am - 5:30 pm  
**Tel:** 82-31-228-4410

(By Jackie Zhang)

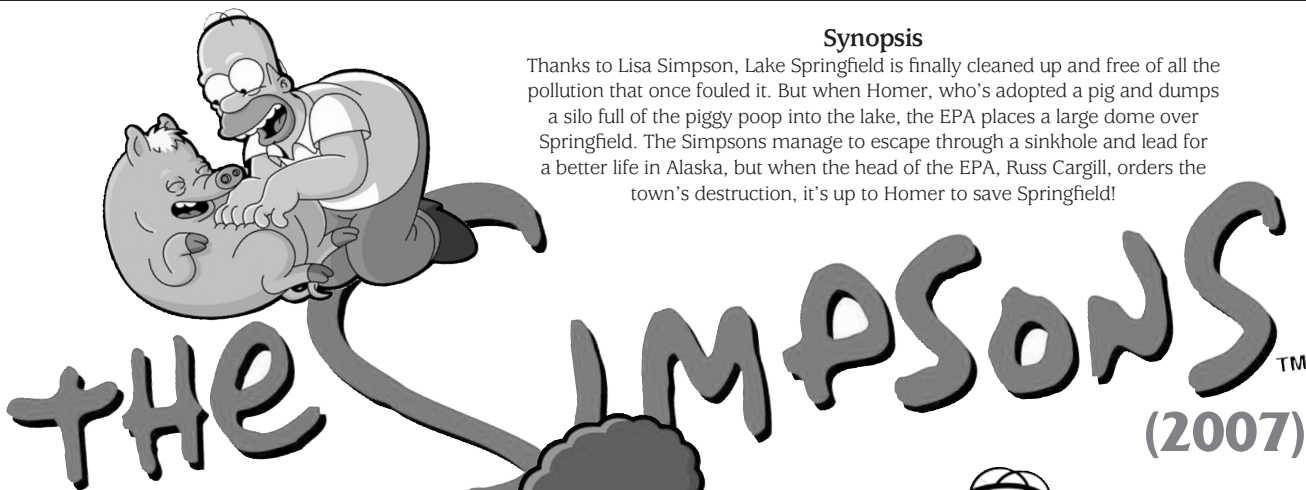


Hwaseong Fortress Photos provided by Pbase.com



The stone Buddha on Mount Namsun in Gyeongju





## Scene 1

(a crowd scene at Springfield Lake at night. Green Day is playing as part of the "Duff Summer Concert Series." Comic Book Guy is trying to crowd surf, much to the crowd's chagrine.)

**Comic Book Guy:** Excuse me, my heinie is dipping!

(The crowd drops him. Billie Joe Armstrong from Green Day sings "da-da-da" to the final strains of the Simpsons theme, following a teleprompter.)

**Billie Joe Armstrong:** Alright, well, thanks a lot for coming. We've been playing for three and a half hours, now we'd like just a minute of your time to say something about the environment.

(There is a deathly silence, followed by huge boos from the Springfield crowd. They start throwing things at the band.)

**Barney:** Preachy<sup>(1)</sup>!

**Billie Joe Armstrong:** We're not being preachy!

**Frank Edwin**

**Wright III:** But the pollution in your lake – it's dissolving our barge!

(Moe is sitting in a deck chair. Lisa stands next to him.)

**Lisa:** I thought they touched on<sup>(2)</sup> a vital issue.

**Moe:** I beg to differ<sup>(3)</sup>.

(He throws a rock at the stage, which penetrates the bass drum and hits Frank in the crotch.)

**Frank Edwin Wright III:** Ow!

**Michael Pritchard:** Gentlemen, it's been an honor playing with you tonight.

(Green Day puts down their instruments and brings out violins as the barge sinks. Lisa looks on woefully.)

## Vocabulary

- 1. preachy:** moralizing tediously
- 2. touch on:** to pertain to something
- 3. I beg to differ:** a polite way of saying that you disagree with something that someone has said
- 4. fourth base:** the final stage in a relationship that involves sexual intercourse
- 5. take the rap:** be punished or blamed for something
- 6. at one's wit's end:** completely puzzled and perplexed, not knowing what to do
- 7. he does an impression of you:** imitate someone's characteristics
- 8. nail:** in this context, to do something perfectly
- 9. off the hook:** released from blame or annoying obligation
- 10. bake up a batch of frownies:** become depressed or sad
- 11. bug zapper:** a device that attracts and kills insects that are attracted by light.

## Synopsis

Thanks to Lisa Simpson, Lake Springfield is finally cleaned up and free of all the pollution that once fouled it. But when Homer, who's adopted a pig and dumps a silo full of the piggy poop into the lake, the EPA places a large dome over Springfield. The Simpsons manage to escape through a sinkhole and lead for a better life in Alaska, but when the head of the EPA, Russ Cargill, orders the town's destruction, it's up to Homer to save Springfield!

## Scene 2

**Homer:** Alright, boy, time for the ultimate dare. I dare you to skateboard to Krusty Burger and back naked!

**Bart:** How naked?

**Homer:** Fourth base<sup>(4)</sup>.

**Bart:** But girls might see my doodle.

**Homer:** (taunting) Oh, I see. Then I hereby declare you 'chicken for life'. Every morning you'll wake up to "Good morning chicken!" At your wedding, I'll sing.

(He sings the wedding march in clucking noises as Bart skateboards past him naked, he makes a surprised clucking sound)

**Ralph:** I like men now!

**Agnes Skinner:** Don't look where I'm pointing!

(Bart passes a police car which promptly follows him, siren blaring. Wiggum, Lou and Eddie are in the car.)

**Wiggum:** Stop in the name of American squeamishness!

(Lou fires a gun from the car, taking out the skateboard's back wheel. Bart loses control, hits a curb and goes flying past Hans Moleman in his truck. At Krusty Burger, Ned and his kids are about to eat.)

**Ned:** Boys, before we eat, don't forget to thank the Lord for this bountiful – (Bart hits the restaurant window, sticking to it.) – penis!

**Rod & Todd:** Bountiful penis.

**Todd:** Amen.

(Exiting Krusty Burger some time later, Lou and Eddie pry Bart off the window.)

**Lou:** Uh, listen kid, nobody likes wearing clothes in public, but you know it's ... it's the law.

(Bart slides off the window and

Lou handcuffs him to a lamp post.)

**Wiggum:** Lunch time!

(The cops head inside.)

**Bart:** You can't leave me out here!

**Lou:** Don't worry, we found a friend for you to play with.

(He brings Nelson over.)

**Nelson:** Ha ha!

Ha ha! Ha ha! (fade to much later; Nelson is still laughing but is tired)

(Nelson's mother appears.)

**Mrs. Muntz:**

Nelson, honey, where have you been? (Nelson points at Bart) Ha ha! Ha ha! Ha ha!

(Homer pulls up in his car.)

**Bart:** Dad!

**Homer:** What seems to be the problem, officers?

**Bart:** Tell them you dared me to do it!

**Wiggum:** If that's true, then you should be taking the rap<sup>(5)</sup> here, not your son.

**Homer:** (getting out of the car) And what happens to me if it's my fault?

**Wiggum:** You'll have to attend a one-hour parenting class.

**Homer:** It was all his idea! He's out of control I tell ya! Oh, I'm at my wit's end<sup>(6)</sup>!

(Bart is freed and the cops leave.)

**Wiggum:** See you in court, kid. (Homer stops sobbing.)

**Homer:** Okay son, let's get some lunch.

**Bart:** Did you at least bring my clothes?

**Homer:** Shirt, socks, everything you need.

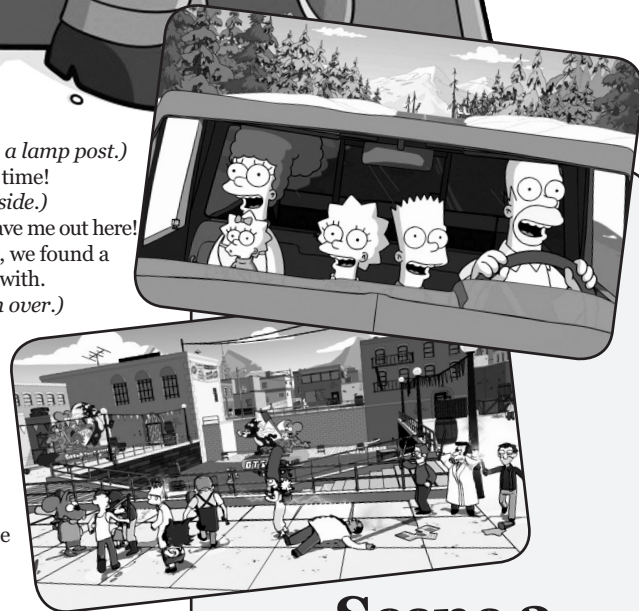
**Bart:** You didn't bring my pants!

## Movie of the Week

This is a 2007 animated film based on the television series *The Simpsons* and directed by David Silverman.

*The Simpsons* first appeared in 1988 in small animated vignettes on *The Tracey Ullman Show*. Creator Matt Groening and producer James Brooks turned the idea into a full half-hour show, which premiered on the Fox network in December of 1989.

*The Simpsons* was a hit from the start and has remained one of the most popular television shows in history as well as the longest-running prime-time cartoon.



## Scene 3

**Homer:** Say hello to the newest Simpson.

**Marge:** Homer! I believe what happened in church was a warning about precisely this. Please, get rid of that pig.

**Homer:** Oh, you're gonna love him. Look, he does an impression<sup>(7)</sup> of you. You nailed<sup>(8)</sup> her. He also does me. You smiled. I'm off the hook<sup>(9)</sup>. Oh, you have so many looks.

**Bart:** So that's what snug is.

**Homer:** Who's a good pig? Who's a good pig?

**Flanders:** Rough day, huh, son?

**Bart:** You don't know what rough is, sister.

**Flanders:** Bart, you know, whenever my boys bake up a batch of frownies<sup>(10)</sup> I take them fishing. Does your Dad ever take you fishing?

**Bart:** Dad, it's not fair to use a bug zapper<sup>(11)</sup> to catch the fish.

**Homer:** If you love fish like I do, you want them to die with dignity. I think I have a nibble.

**Bart:** I think fishing might be more fun with you.

**Flanders:** Oh, great. Now, how about I fix you some cocoa?

**Bart:** No way. Cocoa's for wusses.

**Flanders:** Well, sir, if you change your mind, it's on the window sill.

(By Wang Chuyang)



**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at [gantian@ynet.com](mailto:gantian@ynet.com).



# Hair today, gone tomorrow!

By Gan Tian

Every Saturday, Daniel and I would have dinner together and then hit a disco for fun.

Our favorite song was "YMCA." Every time the deejay played it, we would grin at each other and yell, "Hah! Let's get high!"

We all understood that "high time" meant "now it is time for great fun," but last week, another friend, June, shared another interpretation of "high time" with us.

We met at a pub in Sanlitun. I had not seen Daniel and June for some time. The Spring Festi-

val was long and boring, so when they saw me, they were all surprised at my appearance.

"Your hair is getting too long! Are you growing a tail?" Daniel asked.

"Nope. I am just too damned lazy to get a haircut," I replied.

"And your nails ... how often do you cut them? For your own sake, man, do something! They look dirty!" June exclaimed.

"Hah, I really have no interest in those trifling matters," I said. As we spoke, the song, "YMCA" was blasting in the background. "Come on, high time is here! Let's get out on the

dance floor!"

"Stop, you little child!" June said, in a voice very reminiscent of my mother's. "I think it's high time you had your hair cut, it is much too long!"

I hesitated for a moment. "Wait, does my long hair have something to do with 'high time'? I really don't understand what you are talking about!"

June burst into laughter. At that moment, Daniel appeared to save me from my embarrassment. He said, "She's suggesting that a date with your barber is long overdue."

"But that doesn't have any-

thing to do with The Village People and YMCA!" I was still confused.

"I said, 'it is high time you did something,' means you should do something now," June said. "The phrase 'high time' here doesn't have anything to do with songs or the atmosphere.

When I got home, I was still brooding over June's words. I looked it up in the dictionary and suddenly understood. "High time" is just the proper time for something that has been delayed too long. Yes. I actually got my hair cut the very next day. I agreed, it was high time!

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to [gantian@ynet.com](mailto:gantian@ynet.com) together with your name and address.



## Ja de Clound Road

By Derrick Sobodash

Signs like this beg the question of whether some sign writers ever obtained a high school diploma. Not only is the English terribly strange, but even the Chinese reads a little weird.

The complete sign reads, "Payattationto - Policemantell you: If you want visit jadecloud Road Please take care of yourself."

While "zhuyi" could be read as to pay mind to something, it is very awkward when used at the top of a sign. It would be more appropriate to print "NOTICE" in capital letters, or some other eye catching word.

"Policemantell you" is a little odd as well, and not because it is missing spaces. It would be more natural to write, "Police say:" To tell is different from to say. When you tell something, you are relating a detailed narrative. You tell a story, you do not say it; you say a few words, you do not tell them.

As for what the police actually say, this is the sticky part. It looks like this is a notice telling people who are visiting or otherwise fooling around on Yudaiyunyou Lu to be careful. If this is the case, then "Travelers on Yudaiyunyou Lu should exercise caution" would work perfectly well.

And just what is a "clound"? It sounds like a portmanteau of clown and rotund. Fat clowns? The horror!

It may be better to scrap the attempt to copy Chinese style in the English and just write a whole new line, "Police advise travelers on Yudaiyunyou Lu to exercise caution."

Of course, all this begs the question of what there is on Yudaiyunyou Lu that travelers should be cautious about. Do thieves live in the woods? Are there land mines? Is it a wooden semi-bridge that has become a favorite nesting site of the dreaded central-China termites?

Inquiring minds want to know.

**Blacklist**

*Beijing Today* has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

## Local professor: Zhu Shida

### 1. They also must not have children of their own.

This sentence expresses a negative idea and, in this case, if you wish to express the idea of "also", you have to use the words, "either" or "neither." Using "also" does not

work. The sentence should read either, "They must not have children of their own either, or "They must neither have children of their own."

### 2. Children ages 3 to 6.

As an attributive modifying the word, "children," "age"

should be in a past participle form. So, it should be, "Children aged 3 to 6," or "Children with ages 3 to 6," or "Children of ages from 3 to 6."

### 3. Beijing hotels have booked many reservations.

A hotel can only accept res-

ervations from its customers, it cannot actually book reservations. You just need to change the word order and the meaning is totally changed and it becomes perfect. That is, "Beijing hotels have had many reservations booked."

## Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

### 1. They also must not have children of their own.

In this sentence the word "also" is not welcome so we must ask it to leave and become a big plus in a more appropriate grammatical situation. If you want to demonstrate the idea of "in addition" in the example sentence, the words, "either" or

"neither," will nicely do the job. The sentence should read, "They must not have children of their own either" or "They must neither have children of their own."

### 2. Children ages 3 to 6.

In the above sentence, the word, "ages" modifies the subject, "Children." We love to modify our children, do we not?

The word, in question, must be in the past form of "aged" to be correct and read, "Children aged 3 to 6," or "Children with ages 3 to 6," or "Children of ages from 3 to 6." Again, pick one you like and run with it.

### 3. Beijing hotels have booked many reservations.

Hotels are inanimate objects

and cannot book anything! If indeed they could, scientists would certainly be lined up to examine their unique talents. Stop the presses! Juggle some of the words around in this sentence and you'll start making sense. The sentence could read, for example, "Beijing hotels have had many reservations booked."



## Friday, February 22

5

**Exhibition**  
**New Vista**

Where: White Space Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun noon – 6 pm, until

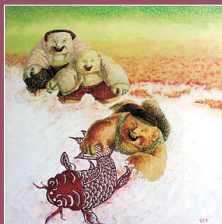
March 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2054

**A family view – Wang Yanyu Solo Exhibition**

The peasant family – including father, mother, and child Wang Yanyu – portrayed are as honest and unsophisticated as wood carvings. The images visualize their easy-going and simple makeup, showing a vivid poeti-



cal pastoral life, making people feel joyful, and thus sharing the happiness of this family.

Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818

Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 6:30 pm, until March 6

Admission: Free

Tel: 8688 2525, 8456 6664

**Eye on China – Joint Exhibition of Gilles Perrin and Pascal Bollinger**

Gilles Perrin and Pascal Bollinger, two French photographers, have explored the subject of China in their work.

Where: Yan Club Arts Center, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until April 2

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3506

**Movie****Prete-moi ta main**

Luis Costa (Alain Chabat) is living a charmed life. He is a successful perfume designer, known around the office as "Le Nez" (the nose). He is a handsome forty-something, and above all, he's carefree and single. He dates



whomever he pleases and happily lives alone.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When:

7:30 pm

Admission:

10-20 yuan

Tel:

6553 2627

## Upcoming

**Concert****New York Philharmonic Orchestra China Tour**

Who: New York Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30pm, February 23-24

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan



## Sunday, February 24

**Exhibition****Search and Research – Kristiina Koskentola Studio Exhibition**

Kristiina Koskentola works with a wide range of media: installation, interventions in public space, video and photography.

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio,

Feijiacun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: 2 pm – 8 pm, February 23-24

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 5747

**Miscellany of the Sichuan Fine Art Institution – 2008 Show**

The 50 participating artists give an overall view of the contemporary artist group at the institution.

Where: F/2 & F/3, Building 1, 32 Baizwan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until

February 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 9392

**Art Exhibition of Selected Works**

You can enjoy works by Feng Linzhang, Hu Yongkai, Song Di and Wang Mingming. You can also experience the modern and super realistic style expressed by young and intelligent artists Huang Maoqiang, Xin Yi, Yu Jiantao and Lao Dao.

Where: Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, the Imperial Archives, 136 Nanchizi Da jie, Dongcheng

When: Mon-Fri 9 am – 5 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am – 5 pm, until February 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 6523 3320

**Movie****Je Vais Bien, Ne T'en Fais Pas**

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



## Saturday, February 23

6

**Exhibition**  
**Time of life – Contemporary fine arts of Europe 2008**

The exhibition features Ossi Robertson, Christine Jacob-Marks, and Dieter Finke

Where: Sound First Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: until March 28

Admission: Free

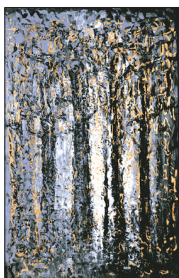
Tel: 64312501

**Group Exhibition**

Featured are You Min, Han Jianyu, Lin Weixiang, Miao Weiwei, Chen Leilei, Su Bilian, Liu Bin, Cui Ying and Lu Qiongwen

Where: 3+3 Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until April 9



Admission: Free  
Tel: 6437 9942

**Yi Hui Solo Exhibition**

Where: Fafa Gallery, 4 Yuyang Lu, Houshayu, Shunyi

When: 10:30 am – 8 pm, until February 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 8430 2587

**Movie****Les Seurs Fâchées**

Louise is a charming woman, disconcerting, natural, a tad awkward and a beautician by trade. She is a beautician and lives in province. Martine, her sister, beautiful and aloof, lives in the Parisian upper middle class sector. Louise has written a novel, and on Monday, she will go for an important appointment in Paris, which could change the course of her life. She spends three days with her sister Martine.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 5 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

## Stage in March

**Concert****Incubus Beijing Concert 2008**

Who: Incubus

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng

When: 8 pm, March 12

Admission: 400-600 yuan

**Rene Liu (Liu Ruoying) Beijing Live 2008 Concert**

Who: Rene Liu (Liu Ruoying)

Where: Capital Gymnasium, 54 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian

When: 7:30 pm, March 8

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

**Wang Jian Cello Solo Concert**

Who: Wang Jian

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, March 23

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

**Pipe Organ Music Week – Organ Music Concert of Bach Classics**

Who: Beijing Symphony Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, March 3

Admission: 50-300 yuan

**Pipe Organ Music Week – Concert of Classic and Modern Organ Masterpieces**

Who: Lio Clayman and Vene Matthew

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, March 4

Admission: 60-280 yuan

**China Philharmonic Orchestra 2008 Musical Festival**

Who: Conducted by Yi Zhang

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, March 8

Admission: 30-480 yuan

**Drama****Amber**

Who: National Theatre Company of China

Where: National Grand Theater Drama Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, March 21-30

Admission: 180-600 yuan

**Comedy Servant of Two Masters**

Who: Piccolo Theater of Milan

Where: National Grand Theater Drama Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, March 7-9

Admission: 80-480 yuan

**Dance****In the Mood for Love**

Who: Shanghai Ballet Group

Where: National Grand Theater Drama Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, March 7-9

Admission: 60-380 yuan

(By Li Jing)